DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Lyon humbled to surpass 'childhood hero' McGrath

Aussie claims 564th wicket, moves into 6th place on all-time Test bowling list

Page 15

Nation P.10

Guided by civilisational ethos: Par panel on Hasina's stay in India

Nation P.11

Doctor, whose hijab Nitish pulled, may snub govt job

World

US to sell arms worth $11 bn to Taiwan **P.13**

Business

Worst is behind us, says IndiGo CEO **P.14**

Quickly

Major lapses in Centre's skill scheme: CAG

The CAG, in its report on the Centre's flagship skill development programme, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), highlighted glaring loopholes in the data management of assessors and trainees, including bank account details. The performance audit of the scheme, for the 2015-2022 period, was conducted in eight states.
Details on Page 10

Eminent sculptor Ram Sutar dies

Acclaimed sculptor Ram Sutar – who designed the iconic 'Statue of Unity' in Gujarat and the statue of Kempegowda at the Bengaluru international airport – died on Wednesday night. Sutar was 100. Born on February 19, 1925, Sutar hailed from Gondur village in Dhule district of Maharashtra.
Details on Page 10

UP couple kills landlady, packs body in suitcase

A couple, who lived in a rented accommodation in UP's Ghaziabad, allegedly hacked their landlady and packed her body in a suitcase when she demanded the pending rent. The incident happened on Wednesday night. The accused, Ajai Gupta and his wife Akriti Gulta, owed Rs 90,000 in rent.
Details on Page 12

TRADE TAKEAWAYS

- Oman offers zero-duty access on 98.08% of its tariff lines
- India agrees to eliminate tariffs on 77.79% of its products
- Pact expected to improve market access for Indian exports
- Will enhance regulatory cooperation, particularly in pharma
- To reinforce energy security by stabilising crude oil, LNG, fertiliser supply
- Promises 100% FDI by Indian companies in major services sectors in Oman

India, Oman sign free-trade pact

Amid US tariffs, Delhi inks 2nd FTA in 6 months after UK agreement

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

PM Narendra Modi being conferred with the Order of Oman honour by Sultan of Oman Haitham bin Tarik in Muscat. PTI

India and Oman on Thursday signed an economic partnership agreement that seeks to eliminate tariffs on majority of goods, boost bilateral investments and ensure greater mobility of Indian workers in the Gulf nation.

This is the second free trade deal India has signed in the last six months after the one with the United Kingdom as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government rushes to diversify and leverage new partners amid strained economic relations with the United States following imposition of a steep 50% tariff by President Donald Trump's administration.

"Today, we are taking a historic step forward in India-Oman relations, whose positive impact will be felt for decades to come. The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) will energise our ties in the 21st century," Modi, who is on a two-day official visit to Oman, said in a post on X.

"It will give new momentum to trade, investment and open new opportunities across different sectors," Modi added.

As part of the CEPA deal, Oman has offered zero-duty access on 98.08% of its tariff lines, covering 99.38% of India's exports to Oman, while India has agreed to eliminate tariffs on 77.79% of its products, which covers 94.81% of India's imports from Oman by value.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Oman's Minister of Commerce, Industry & Investment Promotion Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef signed the agreement in Muscat in the presence of Modi and Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tarik.

According to a joint statement issued after Prime Minister Modi and Sultan Haitham bin Tarik's meeting, the "two leaders took note of discussions on exploring mechanisms to facilitate bilateral trade in local currencies".

For the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government led by Modi, this marks the sixth such pact, while it is the first trade agreement signed during the tenure of commerce secretary Rajesh Agrawal. India is also close to clinching a free trade deal with the 27-nation bloc European Union. In the Gulf region, this is the second such deal. India signed a similar deal with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in 2022.

This is the first bilateral agreement that Oman has signed with any country since its pact with the United States of America in 2006.
▸ Oman, Page 5

Parl set to pass new rural job scheme Bill amid Oppn protest

High drama in Lok Sabha; Chouhan defends Bill

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Opposition MPs march inside the Parliament House complex against the G RAM G Bill on Thursday. PTI

The Parliament is all set to pass the contentious 'VB - G RAM G Bill 2025' to replace the MGNREGA, with the Lok Sabha passing it on Thursday amid vociferous protests by the Opposition and the Rajya Sabha taking it up for a debate that went past midnight.

The Lower House cleared the Bill at 1 pm and it came up for discussion in the Upper House at around 7 pm. The Bill moved by the BJP-led government aims to replace Mahatma Gandhi's name from the erstwhile UPA government's flagship rural job guarantee scheme, transform the programme into supply-driven from being demand-driven and reduce the Union government's expenditure to 60% and mandate states to pay up the rest.

After an eight-hour debate that ended on Thursday early morning, the Bill was taken up for passage in the Lok Sabha.
▸ Bill, Page 5
SHANTI Bill cleared, P10

> MGNREGA was riddled with problems. As per the Act, 60% of the funds were to be spent on labour and 40% on material. But, only 26% was spent on material and funds were siphoned off. Corruption was rampant under MGNREGA
>
> **Shivraj Singh Chouhan,** Rural Development Minister

India resumes visa operations in Dhaka

India on Thursday resumed operations at its visa application centre in Dhaka, a day after closing it over security concerns, but closed two other identical facilities in other parts of Bangladesh as protesters tried to march towards the Indian missions there. The closed facilities were at Khulna and Rajshahi.
P 13

Rs 3.5k-cr projects for North Karnataka

The state Cabinet on Thursday cleared projects worth Rs 3,500 crore for the North Karnataka region. A day before the end of the legislative session at Belagavi, which was intended to address the problems of North Karnataka, the government has decided to give a significant contribution to the region.
P 4

College student blackmailed & gangraped; 3 held

BENGALURU, DHNS: Three men have been arrested by the Magadi police in Bengaluru South district for allegedly blackmailing and gangraping a college student. The alleged offence took place in September and October.

Police said the survivor was a 19-year-old girl. One of the suspects won her confidence by claiming he was in love with her. He took her to the house of another suspect and allegedly sexually assaulted her. He also secretly recorded the act. The suspects used this video to blackmail and gangrape her. The survivor's family approached the police after she revealed the matter.

The suspects — Vikas (25), Prashant (19) and Chetan (28) — have been booked under relevant sections of the BNS.
Details on Page 2

Plan for 7 roads in buffer zones may face land takeover hurdle

ASHWIN B M & NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

ROADS PROPOSED

- Koramangala Inner Ring Rd to Sarjapur Rd **(6.04 km)**
- Hebbal Military area (Sarovara Layout) to Thanisandra Main Road **(14.03 km)**
- Thanisandra Main Rd to Hennur Main Rd **(15.18 km)**
- V Legacy Road to RR Nagar Arch **(10.20 km)**
- Nayandahalli Circle to V Legacy Road **(2.61 km)**
- Bellandur waste weir outlet to Virginia Mall on Old Airport Road **(18.23 km)**
- HAL to Wind Tunnel Road **(1.40 km)**

The city's infrastructure agency has launched a Rs 200-crore project of building seven new roads along buffer zones of the storm water drains (rajakaluve) and lakes in the city.

The initiative is being taken up at a time when the state government has substantially reduced the buffer zone norms for lakes and storm water drains, a change that could make land acquisition even more challenging.

Under what it calls the Sanchara Yukta initiative, Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Ltd (B-SMILE) plans to add 67.69 km of new road length in the first phase to the city's existing infrastructure. Overall, it has planned a network of about 228 km of new roads.

According to officials, the project aims to improve mobility and act as permanent physical demarcation to prevent future encroachment of drain buffer spaces.
▸ Buffer zones, Page 5

Hate Speech Bill passed without full debate, Oppn walks out

BELAGAVI, DHNS: The stringent Hate Speech Bill was hurriedly passed in the Assembly even as the debate was incomplete, prompting an Opposition walkout when Speaker U T Khader did not agree to further discussions or a House committee to vet the proposed law.

The Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill, piloted by Home Minister G Parameshwara, was passed when BJP lawmakers were protesting in the well of the House against a different issue.

Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka's address was curtailed when Khader concluded the debate. Ashoka tore the Bill in protest.

Earlier, quoting the Supreme Court, Parameshwara said hate speech must be "dealt with an iron hand" and that it had no place in modern societies. "In Karnataka and India, many people are speaking in a manner that hurts others' sentiments. There have been murders and violence because of hate speech," Parameshwara said, adding that a law would act as a deterrent.
▸ Hate Speech, Page 5
Bill against social boycotts cleared, Page 4

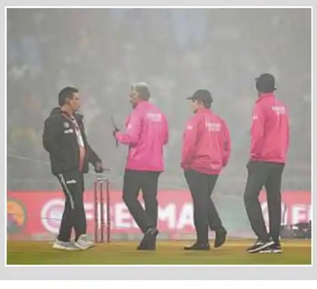
Internal quota Bill passed

The Legislative Assembly on Thursday passed the Karnataka Scheduled Castes (Sub-Classification) Bill, 2025, ratifying the 6-6-5 formula of the government, even as both sides tried to claim credit for the decision.
Details on Page 5

FOGGED OUT

Scheduling: BCCI unable to see through smog?

MADHU JAWALI
BENGALURU, DHNS



Matches hit by smog

Fourth T20I between India and South Africa in Lucknow on Dec 17 abandoned due to "excessive fog"

- Third Test between India and Sri Lanka in Delhi in Dec 2017 saw several stoppages as players suffered from vomiting and respiratory issues
- On the eve of the 2023 World Cup match between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, both teams cancelled training sessions due to "severe" air quality

On Wednesday evening, the fourth T20I between India and South Africa in Lucknow was called off after a dense layer of smog enveloped the ground. Match officials waited for conditions to improve and conducted multiple inspections before eventually calling it a day, as a disappointed crowd disappeared into the haze.

While this was the first time an international match in India has been abandoned because of smog, several fixtures — both international and domestic — have previously been affected by similar conditions.

You don't have to be a meteorologist to understand the weather pattern in northern India at this time of year. It is generally foggy, but increasingly "chillingly" smoggy. As visibility drops rapidly towards the evening, the Air Quality Index (AQI) rises to alarming levels, making even a morning stroll hazardous, let alone playing a cricket match.

In November 2017, the third Test between India and Sri Lanka in Delhi was interrupted on multiple occasions after some visiting players suffered respiratory issues, with a couple of them even vomiting on the field. In 2019, India and Bangladesh played a T20I in similarly hazardous conditions, again in Delhi.
▸ BCCI, Page 15

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TRAGEDY STRIKES

Concrete blocks fall from under-construction building, child dies

Concrete blocks from the fourth floor of an under-construction building collapsed onto a shed housing the deceased and injured.

BENGALURU, DHNS

A child died and three others were injured after hollow concrete blocks fell on them from a neighbouring under-construction building in eastern Bengaluru on Thursday, police officials said.

The deceased is four-year-old Manushree alias Paru.

The injured are Shriyan (6), Shekhar (5), and 30-year-old Mamatha.

All of them lived in a shed that had cement sheets as roof. The shed belonged to Madhu, who was also living there. All of them were natives of Bhoragi village in Vijayapura district.

Police said the shed was adjacent to a building under construction near Chinnappanahalli. It belonged to one Srinivasulu, who had carried out construction activities without taking due safety precautions.

Between 3 and 3.30 pm, 10 to 12 concrete blocks suddenly fell from the fourth floor of the under-construction building on the shed where the deceased and the injured resided. Manushree was declared brought dead at the hospital, while others continue to receive treatment at a private hospital where doctors monitor their condition.

Complaint pending

K Parashurama, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Whitefield), said they are yet to receive a complaint, while assuring that a case will be registered.

Fundraiser concert tomorrow

BENGALURU, DHNS: Mitra CanCare Foundation presents 'Abhivyanjana Dec 2025', a fundraiser event, on Saturday at 6 pm at Bangalore Gayana Samaja, Basavanagudi. Popular Kannada and Hindi film songs will be performed on the harmonica by artists from Hamsanada Foundation. Tickets available online.

Special trains

BENGALURU, DHNS: The South Western Railway (SWR) will operate special trains connecting Bengaluru with Hubballi and Vijayapura on December 24.

Train number 07379 will depart from Hubballi at noon and reach Yeshwantpur at 8.30 pm.

Train number 06277 will leave Yeshwantpur at 9.50 pm and reach Vijayapura at 9 am.

No more concrete boxes; city turns to nature to stave off floods

To roll out rain gardens, permeable paths, and lake storage to fight water crises

BENGALURU, DHNS

City officials are shifting from concrete drains to "nature-based solutions" that help the ground absorb rainwater, aiming to prevent both flooding and summer water shortages.

At a meeting by the Jana Urban Space Foundation on Thursday, officials said the city's drainage system is failing. Despite sufficient rainfall, too much ground is paved. This prevents rain from soaking into the earth, causing it to flood the streets.

"Despite over 900 mm of annual rainfall, rapid urbanisation has broken natural recharge pathways," said M Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner, Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA). He noted the city's geography should prevent major flooding, but sewage mixing with drains and loss of open ground cause problems.

GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao speaks at a convention in the city on Thursday, highlighting factors contributing to flooding.

How it works

The city is installing a 'pipe-and-chamber' system.

The new design:

- Keeps sewage separate from rainwater.
- Uses special underground chambers every 45 metres.
- Has 'open bottoms' in these chambers to let water soak back into the ground.

Rao said sloping areas stay dry, but places like Yelahanka and south Bengaluru face flooding. He proposed bioswales, rain gardens, and permeable pavements to slow water and recharge groundwater.The city is replacing old concrete "box drains" with new systems.

BS Prahalad, Engineer-in-Chief and and Director (Technical) at B-SMILE, said box drains were often misused for dumping sewage, causing clogs and odours.

So far, 160 kilometres of new drains have been built. The city's 200 lakes, including Madiwala Lake, will act as storage tanks for storm water.

Bengaluru model

A Rs 2,000-crore World Bank loan is funding projects like K-100 Valley, aiming for more green spaces and keeping sewage out of the rainwater system. Officials hope to make Bengaluru a model for other cities.

Rao also released the draft working paper, 'Rebuilding Urban Drainage Systems: Learnings from Nallurahalli Nallah Rejuvenation in Bengaluru'.

BDA set to open second loop at Hebbal

Likely to ease traffic for northern areas, airport passengers

BENGALURU, DHNS

About four months after completing the KR Puram loop at Hebbal Junction, the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) is on the verge of finishing a second loop connecting Mehkri Circle.

The new loop is expected to ease traffic congestion for commuters from the city's northern areas, including passengers returning from the airport.

Manivannan P, BDA Commissioner, said the work is nearly complete, with only minor tasks and safety checks remaining. "We should be able to open it to traffic by the end of this month," he added.

The second phase of the project involved erecting a steel girder over the live railway line, reinforcing the deck slab, and concreting—similar to the work done for the KR Puram loop towards the city.

Notably, the BDA, often criticised for project delays, completed this loop without major issues, except for awaiting approvals from railway authorities.

With the completion of these two projects at Hebbal, traffic congestion at the junction is expected to ease. However, concerns remain about potential bottlenecks near Mehkri Circle due to the narrow turn towards Jayamahal Road.

Hebbal traffic to ease as BDA wraps up second loop to Mehkri Circle. PHOTO: BDA

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

'Kavyananda' award ceremony: Rajendra Chenni to be felicitated; Organised by Kannada Sahitya Samvardhaka Trust; Nayana Auditorium, Kannada Bhavana, JC Road; 6 pm

International conference: 'Geo Vision 2025'; Gopalakrishna Patra, BS Dayasagar, Rajesh NL to participate; Department of Geography, Bangalore University, Jnanabharathi campus; 10.30 am.

CULTURAL

Play: 'Nannavala Kaagada'; directed by Ratnamma; organised by Sindhu Bhairavi Trust; City Central Library, Kumaraswamy layout; 10 am.

Play: 'Lights off'; directed by Suresh Aanagalli; organised by Aneka team; Kalagrama, Mallathalli; 7 pm.

Bharatanatyam performance: By Diya Uday; Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Race Course Road; 6.30 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Mist

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	28.0°C
Minimum	16.0°C
Rainfall	--
Humidity	74%
Sunset (Dec 19)	5:57 pm
Sunrise (Dec 20)	6:35 am
Moonrise	4:59 pm
Moonset	4:30 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

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BWSSB workers oversee repair works on the Cauvery Stage V project.

BWSSB restores water supply in 18 hours after complex repair

BENGALURU, DHNS: Water supply to many city areas resumed on Thursday after the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) completed an emergency repair on the Cauvery Stage V project in 18 hours.

BWSSB said its workers laboured nonstop to minimise inconvenience to the public.

BWSSB Chairman Ram Prasath Manohar V said technical teams fixed the leak in the scour valve of the 3,000-mm diameter transmission main.

The repair involved replacing a damaged gasket and broken nuts and bolts.

During the shutdown, engineers also fixed a leak in the bypass of the 900-mm butterfly valve inside the 5th Stage pump house.

"The repairs have been completed successfully. Three pumps are running, and the water supply to Bengaluru has resumed. We appreciate the patience and cooperation of the public during this emergency maintenance work," Manohar said.

Vocal concert on Sunday

BENGALURU, DHNS: Sri Rama Lalitha Kala Mandira will present a vocal concert by Jayanth Krishnamurthi with Vishwajith Mattur on the violin and BJ Shrinivas on the mridanga at 5.30 pm on Sunday at 9th Main Road, Banashankari 2nd Stage, the press release said.

GBA pushes for tenders for Russell Market revamp

BENGALURU, DHNS

GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao on Thursday directed officials to invite tenders immediately for the redevelopment of Russell Market in Shivajinagar.

Rao, after inspecting ongoing works in Shivajinagar, said the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the market's redevelopment had already been prepared.

"Russell Market is a heritage structure, and it should be redeveloped by giving it a modern touch while preserving its legacy, transforming it into a vibrant, sustainable, and people friendly market for Bengaluru," Rao said.

He said traders should not face inconvenience and instructed officials to make temporary arrangements before starting redevelopment.

On the redevelopment of the market, Shivajinagar MLA Rizwan Arshad assured traders the heritage structure would not be damaged.

Rao said the development should include proper drainage, measures to prevent water stagnation in parking areas, comprehensive waste segregation, fire safety systems, toilet facilities, granite flooring in public areas, clock tower design, and related infrastructure.

Shivajinagar MLA Rizwan Arshad said Russell Market is a very old heritage building and assured traders that redevelopment is being carried out carefully without damaging its structure.

He said the redesigned Russell Market will prioritise ease of movement, visibility, and accessibility, transforming it into an attractive destination for vendors and customers.

Rao also asked officials to prepare a plan for a civic waterway on the K-100 model at Ulsoor Lake and to expedite development works at the lake.

19-year-old arrested for stealing sump cover from Ricky Kej's house

BENGALURU, DHNS: Indiranagar police have arrested a 19-year-old man for allegedly stealing a sump cover from the residence of Grammy-winning music director Ricky Kej, police officials said on Thursday.

The accused, identified as Shivakumar, a resident of Neelasandra, is a scrap dealer who reportedly sold the stolen sump cover for Rs 700.

Ricky Kej

The theft came to light after Kej shared CCTV footage of the incident on X last week. The video showed the suspect entering the premises of his Bengaluru home and stealing the sump cover.

In his post, Kej alleged that the suspect had visited the house earlier for a recce before returning to commit the theft. He also shared screenshots of the suspect's face and the vehicle used, a red Honda Activa bearing registration number KA03 HY 8751, and sought assistance from the Bengaluru police and a food delivery platform.

Police said the suspect was tracked and arrested based on the CCTV footage. Further investigation is underway.

Three arrested for blackmail, gang rape of college student

BENGALURU, DHNS: Magadi police in Bengaluru South district arrested three people for allegedly blackmailing and gangraping a college student.

The arrested are 25-year-old Vikas, 19-year-old Prashant, and 28-year-old Chetan. While Vikas and Prashant are students, Chetan is married and worked as an electrician, police said. All are from Magadi Town.

The offence occurred in September and October.

Police said the 19-year-old survivor was a BCom student in Bengaluru. Vikas met her six to seven months ago and gained her confidence by claiming he was in love with her. He took her to Chetan's house in Magadi Town in September and allegedly sexually assaulted her. The act was secretly recorded.

Vikas later showed her the video and threatened to leak it if she did not comply. In October, after further blackmail, she returned to Chetan's house where the three suspects allegedly gangraped her.

(L-R) Suspects Prashanth, Vikas and Chetan.

The blackmail continued. In one instance, when she refused, Vikas sent her the video on Instagram, police said.

The girl informed her family, who approached police on December 17. Magadi police promptly arrested the three suspects.

Investigators recovered the suspects' mobile phones to check if the videos were shared or uploaded on social media. The three have been booked under BNS sections 70 (gang rape), 71 (repeat offenders) and 64 (rape). Further probe is underway.

Dignitaries at International Conference on Computational Innovations and Sustainable Technologies (ICCIST-2025).

Christ University hosts global tech meet on sustainability

BENGALURU, DHNS: Christ (Deemed to be) University's Yeshwantpur campus on Thursday hosted a two-day International Conference on Computational Innovations and Sustainable Technologies (ICCIST–2025).

Organised under the IEEE framework, the conference brought together researchers, industry experts and students from across the globe to discuss the role of emerging technologies in advancing sustainable development.

Inaugurating the event, Campus Director Fr Benny Thomas highlighted the university's emphasis on research excellence and international collaboration to address societal challenges.

The international chief guest, Valentina E Balas of Aurel Vlaicu University of Arad, Romania, delivered the keynote address, urging researchers to focus on ethical and socially responsible innovation. She underlined the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and smart systems in addressing global sustainability issues.

The conference aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, with a focus on Quality Education (SDG 4) and Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17).

Prominent academics, including Bhagwan Singh Chaudhary of Kurukshetra University; Joby Thomas, Dean; and conference chair Siva Balan RV, were present.

Discussions centered on digital inclusion and community well-being through advances in computational technologies.

STAY WELL

From clothing choices to diet, physicians outline essential winter health tips

BENGALURU, DHNS

As the winter chill grips the city, doctors are urging people to take precautions to stay safe and healthy.

While some believe heavy coats, sweaters and jackets are necessary during winter, others suggest that multiple layers of clothing are more effective.

"I keep telling patients to be sensible about clothing, especially in the early mornings and evenings. You do not need heavy jackets, but light layers make a big difference because temperatures change throughout the day," said Dr Siri M Kamath, Consultant, Internal Medicine.

People should also avoid going out for walks early morning when temperatures are low. "While it is good to avoid going out when the temperature is low, it is also important to do enough exercise during the daytime when temperatures are higher. Exercise is important to keep the body warm," said Dr Basavaraj Kuntoji, Consultant Internal Medicine.

Winter wellness tips

- Stay hydrated
- Use layers of clothing
- Stick to warm, homemade meals
- Avoid going out when temperature is low
- Avoid exposure to dust

Another key piece of advice from doctors is the need to stay hydrated. "Another common issue in winter is low water intake. People do not feel thirsty, but dehydration still happens and can lead to headaches, constipation and weakness," Dr Siri M Kamath added.

Doctors also suggest people avoid junk food and stick to warm, freshly cooked meals. "Simple home food, seasonal vegetables, fruits, nuts, and enough protein support immunity better than packaged or cold foods," Dr Siri added.

Dr Kuntoji also advised people to apply moisturiser and avoid dust. "A combination of cold and dust is harmful for the eyes and skin. Allergic reactions are also common and hence, people should avoid getting exposed to dust," he said.

Residents warm themselves by a roadside fire in Chickpet on a chilly winter morning. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

BMIC project cannot be discontinued: Shivakumar

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Bengaluru-Mysore Infrastructure Corridor (BMIC) project by the Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprises (NICE) cannot be discontinued, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar told Council.

Replying to the question by Congress MLC Madhu G Madegowda, Shivakumar, who is also the Bengaluru Development Minister, said that as per the Supreme Court order, the government cannot delete or add anything to the project.

"The project has to be implemented as per the framework agreement between the government of Karnataka and the NICE company," he stated.

"As Bengaluru-Mysore Express Highway is operational, why can't the government discontinue the NICE project and drop the land identified under Bengaluru Mysore Infrastructure Corridor Area Planning Authority (BMICAPA) for acquisition," Madhu G Madegowda said.

In reply, Shivakumar said, "Even I wanted to drop, but there is no such option as it is a three-judge bench judgement." The minister, however, informed that the local authorities will address issues, if any, at their level.

No relief from giving voice sample: SC declines to consider Munirathna's plea

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Thursday declined to consider a plea by former minister & BJP MLA Munirathna against the direction to him to give voice sample during probe in a criminal case.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath & Sandeep Mehta dismissed his special leave petition filed against the high court's Dec 4 order, after hearing senior advocates Vikas Singh, Purvish Jitendra Malkan & advocate Anil C Nishani for the petitioner.

Before the HC, Munirathna assailed the correctness of the order of Sept 17 passed by court of additional city civil and sessions judge in Bengaluru. He sought for setting aside of the Jan 24 order, by court of additional chief judicial magistrate & special court for cases against sitting/former MPs/MLAs.

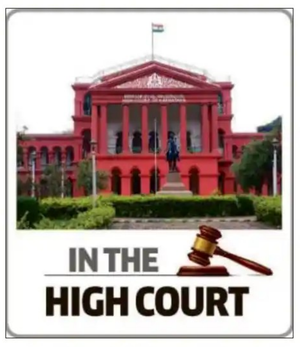
His contention was that the voice sample collected for a probe in bribery case can be used during probe of caste abuse case.

The HC, however, said, sample to be collected would involve making accused read out certain words or sentences of the transcript sought to be relied on by prosecution.

"If that were to be so, the transcript of conversation on bribe would be distinct from conversation relating to abuse in name of caste. This itself would justify that the voice sample separately is to be sent taking note of the portion of conversation sought to be relied on, which requires to be tested," it said.

There should be public interest in politics, not other way round: HC

'State hasn't shown Janaushadhi Kendras in govt hosps illegal'



BENGALURU, DHNS

The high court has observed that the entire fulcrum behind the state government's order directing the closure of Janaushadhi Kendras on government hospital premises revolved around politics in the delivery of medicines in the name of public interest.

"Therefore, this court is constrained to observe that there should be public interest in politics and not politics in public interest," Justice M Nagaprasanna said while allowing a batch of petitions by Jagadeesh Mogera and others, challenging the government order.

The petitioners had challenged the legality and propriety of the orders dated May 14, 2025, by the health and family welfare department and August 2, 2025, by the respective administrative medical officers of the respective government hospitals/community health centres.

The petitioners said the primary reason mentioned in the order was that the presence of the Kendra/s within hospital premises impeded the state's policy of supplying free medicine to patients. It was further contended that the state, in fact, procured medicines from the Kendras for giving them to patients in the hospitals, projecting it that it was given for free.

After perusing the government order, Justice Nagaprasanna said it was unsupported by cogent material and was wholly insufficient to extinguish the rights and expectations painstakingly built over the years.

"Administrative confusion cannot become a licence for administrative caprice. The Kendra/s are established by the Government of India with the avowed objective of providing generic medicine, both cost-effective and quality-effective, which is now wanting to be stonewalled by the state by passing of an order of closure," the court said.

It said the Kendra/s were handed over pursuant to agreements entered into between the parties.

"The sole reason to close the Kendra/s and direct eviction of these petitioners from the premises is that the state wants to deliver free medicine – yet another slogan of providing a freebie or outside medicine is not allowed inside the hospital," Justice Nagaprasanna said.

The court said if patients in hospitals were being administered medicine, procuring them from the Kendra/s, it would demonstrate that there were no free medicines available in the hospitals.

The state has not shown that continuation of the Kendra/s is illegal or harmful, it said.

"Therefore, the intent of supply of free medicine (of the state government), appears to be an intent only. The sustained success of these Kendra/s over 5 to 7 years in all these cases speaks volumes. Therefore, continuance of these Kendra/s is in the public interest. The State cannot now throw a spanner in the wheel of smooth functioning of the Kendra/s by the impugned action, which on the face of it, is antithetical to public interest," the judge said, adding, "public interest must be the soul of governance, not a slogan to justify abrupt policy reversals".

Home minister: Prison videos which went viral were from BJP's tenure

'I have verified the clips and I can provide proof'

BELAGAVI, DHNS

Home Minister G Parameshwara on Thursday clarified that the videos of the inmates possessing banned items in Parappana Agrahara Central Prison, which went viral recently, were shot during the BJP's tenure.

While replying to the question by BJP MLC Kishore Kumar Puttur in the Legislative Council on Thursday, he said, "I am not passing on the blame, but I have verified the videos and I can provide proof that they were recorded during the BJP's tenure. The videos which went viral recently were very old, I even have a timeline of those videos."

Meanwhile, Parameshwara informed the House that the new Prisons DG, who was appointed recently, had raided Parappana Agrahara Prison and seized over 60 mobile phones.

"Not just phones, the officials have even seized knives. We are even aware that drugs enter the prison. I am not escaping from my responsibilities. The inquiry against the officers is going on and we will not spare them if they are found guilty," the minister said.

However, Parameshwara said that the government was considering the petitions of the residents in and around prisons and trying to find a technical solution for the jammers issue. "As we have installed jammers, the residents around the prisons are unable to get a phone network. We are discussing with the service providers for a solution," he said.

As per the data provided in the last two years, 153 cases were registered against prisoners using/having banned items from prisons across the state.

DKS on alert

During the discussion on the special facilities available for prison inmates, BJP MLC Kishore Kumar Puttur read a statement by Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar.

The deputy chief minister, who was in conversation with the Leader of the House N S Boseraju, got alerted and stood up in the House and said, "I have not received any calls from prison. I was a jail minister and I was also in jail. I know the entire jail system." Then the MLC clarified that he did not take up his name, but just read his statement in the media.

Criteria for traditional med practitioners not clear: Min

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao told the Council that two BAMS seats, reserved for the children of traditional medicine practitioners, are not getting filled up, as there was confusion about the criteria to identify traditional medical practitioners. He was responding to BJP MLC B G Patil's query.

Reopening HAL airport requires BIAL's consent: Minister

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The HAL airport in Bengaluru.

KARNATAKA in PARLIAMENT

Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol informed Lok Sabha on Thursday that the reopening of the existing HAL Airport in Bengaluru for civilian operations required consent from the Bengaluru International Airport Limited as per the concession agreement.

"As per concession agreement between government of India and Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), no new or existing airport (except development of Mysuru and Hassan as domestic airports) within an aerial distance of 150 km of Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), Bengaluru, is permitted for development/improvement/upgradation before the airport completes 25 years of operations," he told the House, in reply to a question by Bengaluru central Lok Sabha member P C Mohan.

The minister said development of any new airport within 150 km of KIA, reopening the existing HAL airport, before its 25th anniversary (May 2033), would require consent from BIAL in terms of the provisions of CA.

To a question on setting up a second greenfield international airport in Bengaluru, the minister said, following the state government's request, the Airports Authority of India had conducted pre-feasibility studies of three sites for the development of a second airport in Bengaluru.

The pre-feasibility study report had been sent to Karnataka. The Ministry of Civil Aviation had not received any further communication from the state in this regard, he said.

Earlier, Bangalore South MP Tejasvi Surya had said that Union Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu had assured him that a stakeholders' meeting would be convened soon to explore the possibility of reopening HAL airport for civil operations.

'Project Khushi': 60% of cops reduce weight between 500 gm and 6.1 kg

Top cop wants to make project a permanent programme for B'luru police

BENGALURU, DHNS

Nearly 60% of the policemen who participated in 'Project Khushi' achieved weight loss between 0.5 kg and 6.1 kg, the police said on Thursday.

"Project Khushi, a three-month structured evidence-based health and wellness initiative designed specially for Bengaluru City Police Personnel, delivered an impressive outcome with 61% of participants successfully managing and reducing their blood sugar levels and nearly 60% achieving weight loss between 0.5 kg and 6.1 kg," Bengaluru city police said in a statement.

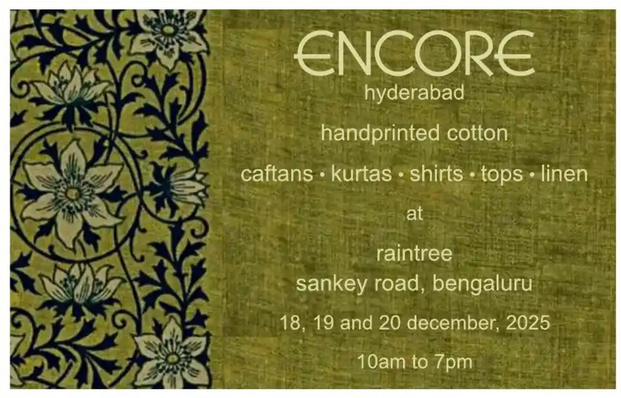
City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said during the closing ceremony on Thursday that the impact of Project Khushi was visible.

"It was a pleasant surprise to see police personnel walking during afternoons, which was a rarity before. We will make Project Khushi a permanent programme for the Bengaluru police and a memorandum of understanding will be signed with a leading health portal for the same," Singh said.

Appreciating the efforts of the participants who were actively involved in Project Khushi, Singh said that it should not be limited to 90 days, but a continuous process, and followed throughout one's life.

"Police personnel who actively took part in the project Khushi will be the brand ambassadors of the project in their respective divisions. Once a year, when we do a medical check-up, the awareness will be there for just 6-7 days. But this project has made police more conscious of their health," he added.

Police said that 61% were able to manage and reduce their blood sugar levels; 70% corrected their vitamin B12 deficiency; 59% reduced weight between 0.5 kg to 6.1 kg in the last three months; 90% no longer get angry with small things and can manage stress better; 72% no longer feel bitter and sour burps after meals; 94% ensure to walk after every meal; and 89% now sleep for six to eight hours a day.



RAMAIAH College of Law
KARNATAKA STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY, BENGALURU
in association with
M.S. RAMAIAH COLLEGE OF LAW
Launching of
ನ್ಯಾಯರಥ
NYAYA RATHA
LEGAL SERVICES CLINIC ON WHEELS
(MULTI UTILITY VEHICLE)
On 19.12.2025 at 10.00 AM
Venue : Near Central Portico, High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru
Flag off by
Hon'ble Shri Justice Vibhu Bakhru
Chief Justice, High Court of Karnataka &
Patron-in-Chief, Karnataka State Legal Services Authority
Chief Guest
Hon'ble Smt. Justice Anu Sivaraman
Judge, High Court of Karnataka & Executive Chairperson, KSLSA
~ Special Invitees ~
Shri M.R. Anandaram
Director, Ramaiah College of Law, Bengaluru
Prof. Umamahesh Sathyanarayan
Principal, Ramaiah College of Law, Bengaluru
Shri H. Shashidhara Shetty
Member Secretary,
Karnataka State Legal Services Authority
Shri K.S. Bharath Kumar
Registrar General,
High court of karnataka
NALSA HELPLINE NUMBER: 15100

From postman to poster boy

How a Bengaluru GPO postman's dedication turned him into the unexpected face of India Post

ANUSHA MARY JONES
TEAM METROLIFE

When India Post recently unveiled a poster featuring Bengaluru-based General Post Office (GPO) postman A S Chandrashekar as the face of the organisation, it took the man himself completely by surprise. Fondly known as GPO Chandru among colleagues and friends, Chandrashekar never imagined that a routine photograph taken at work would place him in the national spotlight.

"I still don't know why they chose me," he says with a laugh, joking that it must have been his "attractive smile and stylish Gandhi Topi" that earned him the title of GPO's poster boy.

The news came as a shock when his superiors called to inform him that his photograph — taken along with those of several employees — had been selected. "Never in my mind did I think it would reach every corner of the country. I am beyond happy," he tells *Metrolife*.

Born to a family of farmers in Annedoddi village in Mandya district, Chandrashekar's journey with India Post is one of quiet perseverance. He moved to Bengaluru in search of work after passing his high-school exam and began his career at the GPO as a washboy in the canteen. In 1999, he entered the postal system as an extra departmental agent.

He became a full-fledged postman in 2007 when he cleared the departmental exam. Now at 49, Chandrashekar has served the GPO for nearly 26 years. Though encouraged by colleagues to aim higher through clerical exams, he remains deeply attached to his role. "I take great pride in being a postman. When I retire, I want to do so while still serving people in this role," he says.

Among his many memories are delivering a cricket bat to West Indies player Chris Gayle at ITC Gardenia and handing confidential documents to former Karnataka chief minister S M Krishna.

At home, the reaction has been light-hearted. "They joke that there's a brand ambassador in the house," he says, smiling. Humbled by the recognition, Chandrashekar adds, "People like me don't dream of this. To be recognised among millions is a huge honour."

GPO Chandru became a full-fledged postman in 2007.

POPCORN

Fine society

An apartment association in Bengaluru has hit the headlines—it pioneered the idea of an in-house criminal justice system. With help from its security staff, it identified, tried, and penalised residents guilty of drug abuse and sexual assault. They are now under the police scanner, but you wonder what our champions of privatisation, always critical of the slowness of public institutions, may have to say about it. The less market-savvy folks are heaving a sigh of relief that this profitable system got busted before the association launched a quick-commerce style publicity blitz—Crime just got more affordable. No-hassles settlement at your doorstep. In 10 minutes or less!

Advent of AI triggers job concerns in ad industry

Campaigns are being created and executed faster, but human roles are in jeopardy

SHRADDHA A K
TEAM METROLIFE

The advances in artificial intelligence over the past year have changed how advertising campaigns are conceived and produced, professionals say.

Paro Salil, an associate director, who has worked for two years in advertising, says: "Traditionally, production teams would create three to four advertisements a month. Now, with companies increasingly requesting AI-generated content, people are lucky if they get to work on even one 30-second film."

AI significantly reduces production timelines, allowing brands to cut down on shoot days and associated costs.

"Many companies have moved away from traditional ad films and are prioritising vertical digital content for social media, often using AI," she says, as content on phones are typically viewed vertically.

The uncertainty has led many professionals, including Paro, to reconsider their careers. "Over the last three months, especially, the number of films has reduced drastically," she adds.

An AI advertisement for cookies created by filmmaker Sendil Kumar.

While teams use AI for pre-visualisation — for storyboards and mood boards — the idea of fully AI-generated advertisements leaves many unsettled.

The anxiety extends across technical departments. Cinematographers and technicians — everyone is worried, and many feel learning AI has become a necessity.

When requests for AI campaigns come in from clients, some advertising firms produce AI-based content with a personal watermark — the director's signature, for instance.

Ad-filmmaker Sendil Kumar echoes similar concerns. He points out that the transition to vertical formats began even before AI, driven by OTT platforms and social media.

"Earlier, ad films were shot horizontally and cropped later. Production crews were still required in those days," he says.

Upskilling key

However, Kumar believes AI will soon affect roles across the board, from cinematographers and actors to set designers, makeup artists to technicians. "This change was inevitable. You either give up your passion or learn to use AI to fuel it," he says.

Directors can now create without spending on a full film crew, and that is changing the dynamics within the industry.

Survival depends on adaptation, Kumar believes. "I use AI as a tool to tell my stories, though I'd do anything to return to working with people again," he says.

He encourages industry professionals to upskill. "Cinematographers and designers already understand filmmaking. If they learn AI, they can become directors themselves," he says

Creative director Pawan Mahalingam does not see large-scale disruption yet, but acknowledges workflows have become faster. "Processes that took four days now take half a day," he says. "That time-saving will inevitably affect hiring."

Companies prefer AI-generated ads as it saves on time and money.

While he believes the Indian advertising industry has not felt the full impact yet, he notes that AI has simplified creative work globally. "There will always be areas that need a human touch," he says. "But AI is already changing how designers work — and that change is here to stay."

EVENTS

Book launch
The launch of 'River Traveller: Journeys on the Tsangpo Brahmaputra from Tibet to the Bay of Bengal' by Sanjoy Hazarika, will be held on December 21, 6 pm, Champaca Bookstore, Vasanth Nagar. RSVP to champaca.in

Musical tribute
Sree Ramaseva Mandali Trust is organising the 101st birth anniversary celebrations of its late founder S V Narayanaswamy Rao on December 21, 9.30 am, at S V N Memorial Hall, off Kanakapura Road. Artistes like Chandramouli Rao, and students of Subramaniam Academy of Performing Arts will pay a musical tribute. The programme will also feature an awards ceremony. Entry free.

Guitar concert
Konarak Reddy will play a solo guitar concert, titled 'CARBON II', on December 20, 7.30 pm, Sabha Blr, Kamaraj Road. Tickets online.

B'luru HRs back 'Right to Disconnect'

They say the Bill could help restore work-life balance, but also upend existing operational costs and processes

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

Right to Disconnect was demanded by KITU at a protest this March. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

A few companies in Bengaluru already have work cultures aligned with the Right to Disconnect Bill, introduced by MP Supriya Sule as a Private Member's Bill in the Lok Sabha last week. The Bill seeks to give employees the legal right to ignore work-related communication outside official working hours and on holidays. It is yet to be approved. Countries such as France, Belgium, Spain and Portugal already limit after-hours communication.

Prashanth Nandiprasad, proprietor of a design firm in Kumara Park West, says their employees are not contacted outside office hours (9.30 am to 6 pm) or on holidays, except in emergencies. He says the system is built on punctuality and accountability, and has been working well for the last 15 years. In the rare case that employees have worked extra hours, they offer overtime money.

A similar culture exists at a Whitefield-based industrial AI company. Sitara Subramani, manager (people and organisation), says the company follows a strict 40-hour workweek with weekends off. She attributes it to their European work culture. Their employees have flexible schedules with no rigid monitoring. If the Bill becomes law, she expects a smooth transition, one that will involve "formalising existing practices and introducing eight-hour rotational shifts to support global clients". "Managers will also be coached to discourage overworking," she adds.

'Addresses burnout'

Annie Thomas, HR head at an influencer marketing platform, says the Bill addresses burnout and blurred work boundaries, and serves as an "important nudge" to set limits. Her organisation has followed flexible 40-hour workweeks for over five years. "We occasionally work on weekends and holidays, especially during festivals or major campaign launches, but this is managed through a staff rotation system," she says.

She feels shift-based systems may become common if the law is enforced strictly. However, this can increase staffing needs and operational costs, which could be a "concern" for many employers.

'Double-edged'

Anupam Singh, vice president-HR, Asia Pacific, at a Whitefield-based software solutions firm, calls the proposed Bill "a bit double-edged" for India's globally integrated tech workforce. He says the sector has thrived on flexibility across time zones, a trend that intensified after the Covid-19 pandemic. While "not always healthy", Singh admits this availability has helped boost business. If enforced, the Bill could push companies towards shift-based work and overtime payments, increasing costs. It could also reshape project delivery models, efficiency monitoring systems, and "prompt companies to consider nearshoring (moving business operations to a nearby country)".

Trade union says...

The Right to Disconnect has long been a demand of the Karnataka State IT/ITeS Employees Union (KITU). The union raised the issue during protests this March, and even last August when Karnataka proposed 14-hour workdays. The proposal was later withdrawn.

KITU general secretary Suhas Adiga says the lack of clear rules has "normalised" after-hours and weekend work. He believes such a law could force companies to restructure work.

Cops cracking down on repeat road rage offenders

On Wednesday, two bikers were spotted punching and attacking each other with helmets

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

On Wednesday, a video of a brawl between two bikers near Tin Factory surfaced on social media. The clip shows them punching each other and using their helmets as weapons. The incident is one among numerous road rage incidents that have been reported in the city this past year.

In October, 34-year-old Manoj Kumar and his wife, Aarti Sharma, allegedly murdered Darshan, a gig worker, by ramming into him with their car after the latter damaged their mirror while riding his two-wheeler.

Habitual offenders

Cops have been keeping track of repeat offenders and cancelling their licences, says Seemant Kumar Singh, Bengaluru City Police Commissioner. "We have also improved response time to distress calls to 112 (to 10 minutes) to prevent the incident from escalating from verbal to physical assault," he shares. He notes that while there has not been an increase in incidents, more cases are being registered. "There is no classification under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita for road rage incidents. The cases are booked based on the nature of the injury or damage done," Singh says. Recently, the cops registered an accident case in Sadashivanagar but further investigation revealed it was a case of road rage and the culprit was booked accordingly, he recalls.

People are on edge due to job uncertainties and shaky relationships, and this has resulted in an increase in anger issues, which are often manifested on the road, counsellors and psychologists say.

Emotional regulation in school

Psychotherapist Kala Balasubramanian explains that one must evaluate any emotion based on whether or not it is relevant and commensurate with the situation. The emotion can be either helpful or unhelpful, depending on how appropriate it is. "For instance, if someone cuts you off in traffic, it is normal to get angry. On a scale of 1 to 10, 1 being the lowest and 10 the highest, if your level of anger is 1-3, it is helpful and manageable. But if it is 8-10, it is too intense for the situation and can become rage," Kala shares.

She points out that understanding and regulating emotions need to be taught in schools and colleges. "In some countries, it is part of the school curriculum. Kids learn to understand and regulate their emotions and also respond appropriately to the emotions of others. I think it is important to introduce emotional literacy in our country," she states.

Cops have been cancelling the licences of repeat offenders, says Seemant Kumar Singh, Bangalore City Police Commissioner. DH FILE PHOTO

REGULATING ANGER

According to Sunil John, a therapist with over 15 years of experience, anger often stems from neglect of one's mental and physical health. "Most people are not equipped to handle the situation," he says. He recommends box breathing (inhale for four seconds, hold for four seconds and exhale for four seconds), visualisation techniques (picturing a scenario that makes you happy, like a beach, your pet or your favourite food), and humming a favourite tune in your head to regulate anger and bring down cortisol levels.

SOPHIA'S 1975 BATCH REUNITES

The 1975 batch from Sophia High School, Palace Road, reunited for a lunch on December 1 at a restaurant on Vittal Mallya Road. The celebrations continued on December 2 at a social club on Residency Road with singing, dancing, and cake-cutting. Around 40 alumnae, who now live across India and abroad, attended the reunion. They currently work as doctors, lawyers, fashion designers and professors. Some run businesses. Among them were also a Bharatnatyam dancer, an artist specialising in Mysuru paintings, and homemakers.

Urban farming with 'agrivoltaics'

A Bengalurean is growing microgreens under a canopy of solar panels on his terrace to optimise space

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

A former corporate professional is growing microgreens while harvesting solar energy on a 250 sq ft section of his home terrace in Bukkasagara in Bengaluru Urban district. This dual use of space — installing solar panels above crops or livestock areas — is known as agrivoltaics.

Last week, Pritam Kumar Sinha harvested his first batch of microgreens (over 10 varieties) grown in his agrivoltaics setup. The installation uses eight bifacial solar panels, though he currently draws electricity from five units to meet household needs. These generate about 20 units of electricity a day.

The panels are mounted on metal poles above grow bags to form a hut-like canopy. The structure reduces evaporation by providing shade, while its elevated design allows sunlight to reach plants from three sides, with one side blocked by a wall. Sinha says the model would suit crops that do not require direct sunlight, such as horticulture and floriculture, as well as cash crops like capsicum grown in polyhouses. He believes it can also be adapted for sericulture, which involves cultivating mulberry plants.

For Sinha, the pilot demonstrates how food security, energy needs and water conservation can be integrated within a single structure. It also incorporates waste management, as he produces and uses his own biofertilisers. "Can we not think of a government scheme for small farmers that brings together existing subsidies for horticulture, floriculture and solar energy under a single-window clearance?" he asks.

Although agrivoltaics dates back to the 1980s, its adoption has increased in recent years. China's large-scale use of the practice to balance food and energy security inspired Sinha to try it.

His research began as an effort to create cost-effective, sustainable home gardens to address nutritional gaps. A former Indian Administrative Fellow with the Karnataka government, he has worked on projects related to family welfare and malnutrition eradication. And living in Bukkasagara village, where municipal amenities are "inadequate", pushed him to explore alternative energy sources. For over 11 years, Sinha has been prototyping low-cost solar solutions, drawing on his background in industrial electronics and IT support. "In September 2024, my electricity bill was Rs 5,500. Last month, it was Rs 500. The system powers our TV, refrigerator, fans and lights," he says. His DIY agrivoltaics setup cost about Rs 1.5 lakh, which he says is roughly a third of market prices. Now he wants to train citizens to build agrivoltaics tailored to their space and budget. "On Friday, officials from the Environmental Management and Policy Research Institute, along with gardening enthusiasts, are visiting my setup," he says.

For details, contact sinha_pritam@hotmail.com.

Pritam Kumar Sinha is growing microgreens like spring onion, spinach and amaranth under the canopy of eight solar panels.

Curated by DH Brandspot

Excellence, innovation and human-centric ethos in focus at MAHE's 33rd convocation

Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), an institution of eminence and deemed-to-be university, held its 33rd convocation over five days from November 21-23 in Manipal and from November 29-30 in Bengaluru. Degrees were conferred on 4,944 students, including 170 PhDs, while 11 exceptional students were awarded the prestigious Dr TMA Pai Gold Medal across various disciplines at the Manipal campus. At the Bengaluru campus, 2,285 students were conferred degrees including 12 PhDs and three students received the Dr TMA Pai Gold Medal.

Over the five days, the deliberations centered on opportunities and complexities of navigating a world increasingly shaped by AI. The speakers noted the rapid pace at which AI is transforming every aspect of life, including industry and the job landscape, often in ways that are difficult to predict. They emphasised the essential skills graduates will need to stay ahead in a digital future, particularly the importance of retaining distinct human abilities such as judgment, empathy, creativity and ethical decision-making. The overarching message for the graduates was to stay adaptable, curious, and grounded, use technology responsibly and lead with integrity as they enter an AI-driven future.

Lt Gen Dr M D Venkatesh, VSM (Retd), Vice Chancellor, MAHE, shared a transformative vision for MAHE, Manipal Campus, presenting a roadmap for a future defined by innovation, entrepreneurship and academic excellence. He highlighted MAHE's robust digital capabilities and sustainable initiatives, including its 32-megawatt solar power facility, emphasizing the institution's commitment to leading responsibly in the AI era. Beyond academic achievement, he stressed on the importance of building a learning ecosystem grounded in compassion, global perspectives and strong community engagement, supported by research, student initiatives and technology incubators.

Pro Chancellor Dr H S Ballal presided over the proceedings along with Vasanti R Pai, Trustee, MAHE Trust.

This vision extends seamlessly to MAHE Bengaluru, where the Vice Chancellor outlined bold initiatives to strengthen the academic and research ecosystem. Key upcoming projects include a 7-qubit quantum computing facility, an I-factory for smart manufacturing, a humanoid lab for robotics and AI, and a 6G testbed for next-generation communication.

The Manipal Universal Technology Business Incubator (MUTBI) will open a satellite centre in Bengaluru to support start-ups and technology incubation. Academic expansion will continue with new dual-degree, joint-degree and pathway programmes with leading international universities, alongside an AI-based consultancy centre to drive industry collaboration and applied research.

Celebration of excellence

The 33rd convocation of MAHE celebrated the exceptional academic achievements of its graduating students across the Manipal and Bengaluru campuses. Outstanding performers were honoured with the prestigious Dr TMA Pai Gold Medal, recognising their dedication, skill and excellence across diverse disciplines.

Dr TMA Pai Gold Medal awardees

- Ponnamma M M for M.Sc. Medical Biotechnology, MSLS Manipal
- Nikita Marina Saldanha for B.Pharm, MCOPS Manipal
- Cyril Biji for M.Sc. Biostatistics, PSPH Manipal
- Vindhya S Badal for B.Sc. Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics, MCHP Manipal
- Rashi Goel for B.Tech Computer Science and Engineering, MIT Manipal
- Neha Sreekumar for B.Sc. Nursing, MCON Manipal
- Mandira for B.A. Media and Communication, MIC Manipal
- Nidhi S for M.E. Big Data Analytics, MSIS Manipal
- Isha Jonathan Wilson for BHM, WGSHA Manipal
- Kashika Anil Kini for B.Com Professional, MSCE, Manipal
- Zhara Mohiddin for IPM, Manipal Institute of Management, Manipal
- Rianna Chattopadhyay for Bachelor of Design, SMI
- Mohnishraja K for LL.M in Data Privacy and IT, MLS
- Dibyabha Deb for Electronics and Communication Engineering, MIT

MAHE Leadership unveiled a special postal cover issued by India Post to celebrate the 90th Birthday of Chancellor Dr Ramdas M Pai during the opening Day of the 33rd MAHE Convocation in Manipal, (Left to right) Dr Vinod V Thomas, Registrar Evaluation; Dr Sharath Rao, Pro Vice Chancellor (Health Sciences); Dr Narayana Sabhahit, Pro Vice Chancellor (Technology & Science); Lt Gen Dr M D Venkatesh, Vice Chancellor; chief guests Prof Ananya Mukherjee, Vice Chancellor, Shiv Hadar University; Dr H S Ballal, Pro Chancellor; Vasanti R Pai, Trustee, MAHE Trust; Dr Dilip G Naik, Pro Vice Chancellor and Dr P Giridhar Kini, Registrar, MAHE

The medalists expressed sincere gratitude for MAHE's supportive environment, which they said helped turn hard work into achievement. They reflected that this milestone is not just an ending but the beginning of a new phase of responsibility and service to society.

The graduates were urged to value mastery, depth and deliberate effort in an AI-driven world. Across both campuses, the 33rd convocation recognized students for their dedication, skill and academic excellence. The convocation celebrated not just their achievements but the beginning of a new phase of responsibility and service, reinforcing MAHE's commitment to shaping forward-thinking, industry-ready, and human-centric leaders equipped for an AI-powered future.

Admissions for 2026 are now open.
For more information:
https://apply.manipal.edu

Accomplishments of Manipal Academy of Higher Education

National Rankings (NIRF 2025):
- 3rd among universities
- 14th overall
- 19th among research institutions
- 11–50 in innovation ranking
- 5th among sustainable development goals (SDG) institutions

Institutional Rankings:
- 8th in pharmacy (MCOPS, Manipal)
- 27th in architecture (MSAP, Manipal)
- 5th in dental (MCODS, Manipal)
- 59th in engineering (MIT, Manipal)
- 39th in management (TAPMI, Manipal)
- 10th in medical (KMC, Manipal)
- 11th in dental (MCODS, Mangalore)
- 35th in medical (KMC, Mangalore)

Special Recognition:
- Notified as 'Institution of Eminence (IoE)' by Ministry of Education, Government of India, in 2020

Global Rankings:
- Asian University Rankings 2025: 197th
- World University Rankings 2026: 851–900
- Pharmacy: 101–150 worldwide
- Medicine: 251–300 worldwide
- Dentistry: 51–120 worldwide
- Life Science & Medicine: 293 worldwide
- Chemistry: 501–550 worldwide
- Computer Science: 601–650 worldwide
- Economics: 551–700 worldwide
- Young University Rankings 2024: 175th
- Clinical & Health: 301–400 worldwide
- Quality education: 43rd worldwide
- Gender equality: 11th worldwide
- Good health and well-being: 74th worldwide
- Public health: 301–400 worldwide
- Clinical medicine: 401–500 worldwide

'Never delegate your judgement to AI...'

The prevailing narratives often positions AI as either saviour or destroyer, replacement or threat. Both extremes miss the power of collaboration. Most importantly, never delegate your judgment. Leverage all the powers of AI and computational techniques to inform decisions, not make them. Do not let go - reserve moral choices for human wisdom.

Prof Dr Ananya Mukherjee
Vice Chancellor
Shiv Nadar University
Delhi NCR

Don't just build or use technology. Do it responsibly. Don't just ask 'can we build this or can we use this?'. Also ask 'should we build this or should we use this?' Use your skills not just for personal success, but for societal progress.

Bikram Singh Bedi
Vice President - Asia Pacific
Strategic Initiatives
Google Cloud

Effective communication is our bridge allowing us to translate knowledge into meaningful impact and care. Knowledge and science gain true meaning only when paired with humanity, attentive listening and genuine connection.

Prof Dr Hany Eteiba
President
Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow

Machines learn from data, human beings learn from friction. The future belongs to those who use technology as an enabler while bringing curiosity, clarity and critical thinking to all they do. AI cannot sense hesitation, ask 'why' or make judgment calls.

Rajkamal Vempati
Group Executive and Head of Human Resources
Axis Bank

Great institutions are built for legacy - not for the exit. Technology without cultural context will fail. Models that overlook local habits, languages and everyday realities cannot truly serve people, because technology is only as powerful as the culture it understands. Integrity must anchor every decision, for trust earned slowly is far more valuable than speed gained quickly. Together, these lessons provide a roadmap for building work that lasts, leads and genuinely serves people.

Paroma Chatterjee
CEO
Revolut India

MAHE's futuristic initiatives

Powering sustainability: Installing a 132 MW solar energy hub to drive campus-wide green power adoption.

Revolutionising learning: Establishing a Center for Micro-credentials with an investment of Rs 500 crores, enabling future-ready skill development.

Exploring beyond horizons: Strategic investments in high-tech space technology centres to foster cutting-edge research and innovation.

Championing sports excellence: Creating world-class sports facilities and launching advanced programmes in sports science and performance analytics.

Accelerating discovery: Committing over Rs 400 crores annually to research and innovation programmes, fueling breakthroughs across disciplines.

MANIPAL
ACADEMY of HIGHER EDUCATION
(Institution of Eminence Deemed to be University)

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
NOTIFICATION

Bengaluru, 03rd December 2025

S.O. 5572(E) -- In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 20 A of the Railway Act 1989 (24 of 1989) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government (Ministry of Railways, South Western Railway, Construction Organization, Bengaluru Cantonment) after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which has been given in the schedule annexed hereto, is required for the execution of the New Railway Line Project, viz., "Bettahalsoor - Rajankunte New Railway Line Project (6.14km)", in the state of Karnataka, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land:

Any person interested in the said land may, within Thirty days from the date of publication of this notification in the official Gazette, raise objection to the acquisition and use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section (1) of Section 20D of the said Act:

Every such objection shall be made to the 'Competent Authority', namely, Assistant Commissioner Bangalore Urban and Regional Commissioner, Bengaluru as 'Arbitrator' for the land acquisition process required for Construction of "Bettahalsoor - Rajankunte New Railway Line Project (6.14km)" in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the competent authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the competent authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections:

Any order made by the competent authority-under-sub-section-(2)-of Section 20 D of the said Act shall be final:

The land plans and other details of the land covered under this notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid Office of the Competent Authority for the said Railway project, Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling with in the proposed Special Railway Project.

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling with in the proposed Special Railway Project for construction of "Bettahalsoor - Rajankunte New Railway Line Project (6.14km)" in the state of Karnataka.

DISTRICT: BANGALORE URBAN **HOBBLI: HESARAGHATTA-2**
TALUK: YALAHANKA **ACQUIRED EXTENT: 1A-38G-8.32AN**
VILLAGE: RAJANKUNTE

Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Hissa No.	Name of Land Owner	Required Extent in A-G-AN				Classification of land
				Total	A Kharab	B Kharab	Balance	
1	10	1	JAYANTHI C/o VISHWANATH VISHWANATH BIN LATE RUDRAIAH JAYANTHI C/o VISHWANATH (JOINT)	0-25-10.24	--	--	0-25-10.24	Dry
2	6	1	CEMETERY LAND (SHMASHANA) NAGARATHNAMMA VIJAYA RANGASWAMY C/o LATE H.RANGASWAMY K.N.SAVITHRAMMA C/o G.RAMU RATHNAMMA C/o LATE CHOWDAPPA LOKESH BIN VENKATACHALAPATHI DEVARAJU BIN VENKATACHALAPATHI (ABOVE JOINT) PUSHPARAJU BIN VENKATACHALAPATHI (ABOVE JOINT) K.MOHIT BIN M.KRISHNA	0-37-1.28	--	0-04-00	0-33-1.28	Dry
		2	GIRIRAJA R.S BIN LATE SUBBANNA AND SHRIMATHI.CHOWDAMMA PADMA R.V C/o GIRIRAJA.R.S (ABOVE JOINT)		--	--		Dry
3	7	1	A.NIRMALA C/o ANTONY	0-0-8.32	--	--	0-0-8.32	Dry
		2	ASHWATHAMMA C/o LATE R.M. THIMMARAYAPPA BSRP KRIDE		--	--		Dry
		3	N.R.ERUDAYA RAJ					Dry
		4	R.VIVEK KUMAR BIN H.RANGASWAMY					Dry
		5	AANJINAPPA BIN LATE RAMAIAH					Dry
		6	JASINTY LIO BURNUS C/o LEONARD HENRI BURNUS					Dry
		7	L.PRAMILA C/O L. BHANUMURTHY					Dry
		8	GOVERNMENT					Dry
		9	SONNEGOWDA R.C BIN R.CHANNAPPA@CHINNAPPA					Dry
4	8	1	THIMMAMMA C/o LATE R.M.NARAYANAPPA BSRP KRIDE	0-2-1.28			0-2-1.28	Dry
		2	BSRP KRIDE PARAMESH C.N BIN C.NANJUNDEGOWDA					Dry
5	9	1	R.C.RAJENDRAKUMAR BIN LATE R.C.CHANNANJAPPA R.C.MANJUNATH BIN LATE R.C.CHANNANJAPPA ABOVE JOINT BSRP KRIDE	0-3-12.8			0-3-12.8	Dry
		2	R.C.CHANNAPPA-CHIKKA MUNI PAPAIAH BSRP KRIDE					Dry
		3	JAYANTHI C/o VISHWANATH					Dry
		4	CHIKKAPPAIAH REDDY BIN CHIKKA MUNISWAMY R.C. CHANNAPPA R.C.KRISHNAPPA					Dry
		5	CHIKKAPAIAH REDDY-CHIKKAMUNISWAMY R.C. CHINNAPPA R.C.KRISHNAPPA					Dry
6	20	1	NAGARATHNA BIN LATE H.H.V AMANAMURTHY SHANTA RANGANATHA BIN LATE H.H.RAYAPPA (JOINT) RAMESH BIN LATE H.H. RAYAPPA(JOINT) GEETHA BIN LATE H.H. RAYAPPA (JOINT)	0-9-6.4			0-9-6.4	Dry
		2	CHENDADEVI AGARWAL					Dry
		3	MANISH AGARWAL C/o DINESH AGARWAL					Dry
		4	PAVAN KUMAR AGARWAL BIN MANIKCHAND AGARWAL					Dry
		5	SUDHADEVI AGARWAL C/o PRASAD AGARWAL					Dry
		6	K.GANESHBABU BIN LATE KRISHNAMURTHY SHETTY					Dry
			Total	**1-38-8.32**	**0-0-00**	**0-02-00**	**1-36-8.32**	

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling with in the proposed Special Railway Project in lieu new lane for construction of proposed FLS between Rajankunte Bettahalsuru new BG lane Service Road in the state of Karnataka.

DISTRICT: BANGALORE URBAN **HOBBLY: YALAHANKA-1**
TALUK: YALAHANKA **ACQUIRED EXTENT: 00A-36G-6.24**
VILLAGE: HONNAHALLI

Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Hissa No.	Name of Land Owner	Required Extent in A-G-AN				Classification of land
				Total	A Kharab	B Kharab	Balance	
1	11		D.V. PAVAMANA BIN LATE D.VAMANAMURTHY BSRP KRIDE	0-36-6.24	--	0-2.00	0-34-6.24	Dry
			Total	**0-36-6.24**		**0-2-00**	**0-34-6.24**	

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling with in the proposed Special Railway Project in lieu new lane for construction of proposed FLS between Rajankunte to Bettahalsuru new BG lane Service Road in the state of Karnataka.

DISTRICT: BANGALORE URBAN **HOBBLY: YALAHANKA-1**
TALUK: YALAHANKA **ACQUIRED EXTENT: 2A-17G-1.28AN**
VILLAGE : SINGANAYAYAKANAHALLI

Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Hissa No.	Name of Land Owner	Required Extent in A-G-AN				Classification of land
				Total	A Kharab	B Kharab	Balance	
1	33	1	MUNIYAPPA BIN LATE CHIKKAMUNIYAPPA	2-17-1.28	--	0-0-0.50	2-17-0.78	Wet
		2	RAMAKKA C/o LATE KALAPPA PARVATHAMMA C/o LATE NARAYANAPPA		--	--		Wet
		3	MUNINARASAPPA DODDA URF CHIKKONU PAMARASA BIN PAMARASA		--	--		Wet
		4	NANJAPPA D BIN LATE DODDAPAPAIAH			0-0-0.25		Wet
		5	S ROOPA JANARDAHAN C/o S.R JANARDHAN			0-0-0.25		Wet
		6	S ROOPA JANARDAHAN C/o S.R JANARDHAN		--	--		Dry & Wet
		7	BHAGYAMMA C/o KRISHNAPPA M CHIKKAMUNIRAMAIAH		--	--		Wet
		8	S ROOPA JANARDAHAN C/o S.R JANARDHAN		--`	--		Dry
			Total	**2-17-1.28**		**0-0-1.0**	**2-17-0.28**	

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling with in the proposed Special Railway Project in lieu new lane for construction of proposed FLS between Rajankunte Bettahalsuru new BG lane Service Road in the state of Karnataka.

DISTRICT: BANGALORE URBAN **HOBBLY: YALAHANKA-1**
TALUK: YALAHANKA **ACQUIRED EXTENT: 00A-24G-3.2AN**
VILLAGE : NAGADASANAHALLI

Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Hissa No.	Name of Land Owner	Required Extent in A-G-AN				Classification of land
				Total	A Kharab	B Kharab	Balance	
1	39		LAKE (KERE ANGALA)	0-24-3.2	--	0-24-3.2	0-0-0	Govt
			Total	**0-24-3.2**	**--**	**0-24-3.2**	**0-0-0**	

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling with in the proposed Special Railway Project in lieu new lane for construction of proposed FLS between Rajankunte Bettahalsuru new BG lane Service Road in the state of Karnataka.

DISTRICT: BANGALORE URBAN **HOBBLY: JALA-2**
TALUK: YALAHANKA **ACQUIRED EXTENT: 12A-19G-6.69AN**
VILLAGE : TIMMASANDRA

Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Hissa No.	Name of Land Owner	Required Extent in A-G-AN				Classification of land
				Total	A Kharab	B Kharab	Balance	
1	27		LAKE (SARKARI KERE)	0-24-14	--	0-24-14	0-0-0	Govt
2	26	1	INDIRA C/O N.C.PATALAIAH	0-32-2.56	--	--	0-32-2.56	Wet
		2	AVNM VENTURES represented hereby its authorized signatory, Mr.ARUN MADHAV MARUPURU BIN MARUPURUDAMODAR REDDY					Wet
		3	AVNM VENTURES represented hereby its authorized signatory, Mr.ARUN MADHAV MARUPURU BIN MARUPURUDAMODAR REDDY					Wet
		4	T.C.VIJAYANNA BIN LATE H.CHIKKANAGAPPA					Wet
		5	AVNM VENTURES represented hereby its authorized signatory, Mr. ARUN MADHAV MARUPURU BIN MARUPURUDAMODAR REDDY					Wet
		6	AVNM VENTURES represented hereby its authorized signatory, Mr.ARUN MADHAV MARUPURU BIN MARUPURUDAMODAR REDDY					Dry
		7	AVNM VENTURES represented hereby its authorized signatory, Mr.ARUN MADHAV MARUPURU BIN MARUPURUDAMODAR REDDY					Wet
		8	LAKSHMI BHAYI C/o LATE M. KRISHNOJIRAO K.ASHABHAYI BIN LATE M.KRISHNOJIRAO (ABOVE JOINT) K.ASHWINIBHAYI BIN LATE M.KRISHNOJIRAO (ABOVE JOINT) K.RAMYA BIN LATE M.KRISHNOJI RAO (ABOVE JOINT) K. CHAITHRA BIN LATE M.KRISHNOJI RAO (ABOVE JOINT) K.PRIYANKA BIN LATE M.KRISHNOJI RAO (ABOVE JOINT)					Wet
		9	AVNM VENTURES represented hereby its authorized signatory, Mr.ARUN MADHAV MARUPURU BIN MARUPURUDAMODAR REDDY					Wet
		10	AVNM VENTURES represented hereby its authorized signatory, Mr.ARUN MADHAV MARUPURU BIN MARUPURUDAMODAR REDDY					Wet
		11	AVNM VENTURES represented hereby its authorized signatory, Mr.ARUN MADHAV MARUPURU BIN MARUPURUDAMODAR REDDY					Wet
		13	AVNM VENTURES represented hereby its authorized signatory, Mr.ARUN MADHAV MARUPURU BIN MARUPURUDAMODAR REDDY					Dry
		12	T.C.SHANTAMURTHY BIN LATE T.H.CHIKKANAGAPPA					Wet
		14	AVNM VENTURES represented hereby its authorized signatory, Mr. ARUN MADHAV MARUPURU BIN MARUPURUDAMODAR REDDY					Wet
		15	T.C.SHANTAMURTHY BIN LATE T.H.CHIKKANAGAPPA					Wet
3	25	1	A.ASHWATHANARAYANA BIN LATE AJANAPPA	0-23-5.12	--	--	0-23-5.12	Wet
		2	T.C.SHANTAMURTHY BIN LATE T.H.CHIKKANAGAPPA					Wet
		3	MUNIYAMMA C/o LATE R.MUNIYAPPA			0-01-00		Wet
4	24	1	RAYAPPA BIN LATE SUBBOJIRAO GANGOJIRAO BIN LATE SUBBOJIRAO (ABOVE JOINT)					Cultivable Land
		2	MUNIYAMMA C/o LATE R.MUNIYAPPA		0-0-01			Dry
		3	AVNM VENTURES represented hereby its authorized signatory, Mr.ARUN MADHAV MARUPURU BIN MARUPURUDAMODAR REDDY		0-0-01	0-01-00		Cultivable Land & Dry
		4	RAYAPPA BIN LATE SUBBOJIRAO GANGOJIRAO BIN LATE SUBBOJIRAO(JOINT)					Cultivable Land & Dry
5	23	1	T.P.PRAVEEN GOWDA BIN PRAKASH	0-32-8.9	0-01-00		0-31-8.9	Cultivable Land
		2	MUNIKEMPAIAH A.ASHWATHANARAYANA BIN LATE ANJANAPPA		0-01-00			Cultivable Land & Dry
		3	T.C.MANJUNATHA BIN LATE CHIKKAMUNIYAPPA					Cultivable Land
		4	T.C.MANJUNATHA BIN LATE CHIKKAMUNIYAPPA					Cultivable Land
		5	T.C.NAGARAJU BIN LATE CHIKKAMUNIYAPPA					Cultivable Land & Dry
		6	T.D.GOWDAPPA BIN DODDAMUNIYAPPA					Cultivable Land & Dry
6	34		N.C.RAMAIAH BIN CHIKKAKEMPANNA	0-16-8.32		0-01-00	0-15-8.32	Wet
7	37	1	T.C.VIJAYANNA BIN LATE H.CHIKKANAGAPPA T.C.VIJAYANNA BIN LATE T.H.CHIKKANAGAPPA	1-22-3.84	1-00-00	0-0-0.75	0-22-3.09	Cultivable Land
		2	ANIL KUMAR T.K BIN LATE KEMPANNA			0-0-0.75		Dry & Wet
		3	A.NAGARAJA BIN ANJANAPPA T.N.PRAKASH BIN A.NAGARAJ (JOINT)		0-0-01	0-04-00		Cultivable Land & Dry
		4	KOMALAMMA C/o RAJANNA			0-0-1.25		Cultivable Land
		5	A.NAGARAJA.BIN ANJANAPPA					Dry
		6	YASHODHAC/o MANJUNATH PRAKASH BIN NAGARAJAIAH (JOINT)					Dry
		7	PUSHPA T.S C/o H.A.MUNIRAJAPPA					Dry
		8	SUGUNA C/O SHRINIVAS					Dry
		9	RATHNAMMA C/o PATALAPPA					Dry
		10	NAGARAJAIAH BIN AANJINAPPA PRAKASH BIN NAGARAJAIAH (ABOVE JOINT)			0-0-1.25		Cultivable Land
8	38	1	HANUMANTAPPA S.R.VISHWANATHA BIN K.V.RAMAIAH VIJAYALAKSHMI BIN NARAYANASWAMY	0-23-4.48	0-03-00		0-20-4.48	Dry & Wet
		2	EERANNA S/o BYRAPPA A.NAGARAJU BIN ANJANAPPA					Dry & Cultivable Land
9	19		GOVERNMENT (SARKARA) RADHAMMA C/o SHYAMANNA SAKAMMA C/O KYATHAPPA RADHAMMA C/o SHYAMANNA SHETTAPPA BIN PAPAIAH AANJANAPPA BIN PAPAIAH	0-36-2.56		0-36-2.56	0-0-0	Dry
10	46	1	R.APPAJI BIN LATE RUBBANNA AKKAMMA C/o R.VEERANNA (JOINT)	1-35-00		0-01-00	1-34-00	Dry
		2	EERANNA @VEERANNA BIN PATALAPPA					Dry
		3	T.C.SHANTHAMURTHY BIN LATE T.H.CHIKKANAGAPPA					Dry
		4	RAJAMMA BIN LATE SHIVANNA					Dry & Cultivable Land
		5	P.MUNIKEMPAIAH BIN PAPAIAH					Dry
		6	AANJANAMMA C/o LATE K.KRISHNAPPA T.K.KEMPANNA BIN LATE KRISHNAPPA (JOINT) MANJUNATHA.T.K BIN LATE K.KRISHNAPPA (JOINT) SUBBEGOWDA.K BIN LATE K.KRISHNAPPA (JOINT)					Dry
		7	AANJANAMMA C/o LATE K.KRISHNAPPA T.K.KEMPANNA BIN LATE KRISHNAPPA (JOINT) MANJUNATHA.T.K BIN LATE K.KRISHNAPPA (JOINT) SUBBEGOWDA.K BIN LATE K.KRISHNAPPA (JOINT)					Dry
		8	PAPAIAH BIN NANJAPPA K.KRISHNAPPA BIN KEMPAIAH SHETTAPPA RAMAIAH AANJANAPA BIN PAPAIAH					Dry
		10	H.R.SURESH BIN LATE H.K.RAMAIAH					Dry
		9	S.DEVENDRA BIN LATE S.VENKATAIAH					Dry
		11	SUDHANYA BIN LATE APPANNA GOWDA NANJAPPA BIN LATE MUNITHAYAPPA					Dry
		12	B.NAGARAJU					Dry
		13	BALEPPA BIN SANTEPPA					Dry
		14	NAGARAJU T.C BIN LATE CHIKKAMUNIYAPPA					Dry

Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Hissa No.	Name of Land Owner	Required Extent in A-G-AN				Classification of land
				Total	A Kharab	B Kharab	Balance	
11	19		GOVERNMENT (SARKARA) RADHAMMA C/o SHYAMANNA SAKAMMA C/o KYATHAPPA RADHAMMA C/o SHYAMANNA SHETTAPPA BIN PAPAIAH AANJINAPPA BIN PAPAIAH	2-39-10.24		2-39-10.24	0-0-0	Dry & Govt
12	16	2A	T.C.NAGESH BIN PATALAPPA	0-26-5.76	0-02-00		0-24-5.76	Cultivable Land
		2B	NAGAMANI .T.C BIN CHANNAPPA					Dry
		1	JAYARAMU BIN ANJINAPPA					Dry
		3	ANANDA T.P BIN PATALAPPA					Dry
		4	T.P.SURESH BIN PATALAPPA					Cultivable Land
		5	T.P.SUGUNA C/o SADASHIVA .T.K					Cultivable Land
	14	1	MUNIKEMPANNA BIN AANJINAPPA T.H.PILLAPPA BIN LATE HUNUMAIAH PARVATHAMMA C/o LATE SONNAIAH	0-27-4.48	0-01-00		0-26-4.48	Dry & Cultivable Land
		2	T.H.PILLAPPA BIN LATE HANUMAIAH PARVATHAMMA C/O LATE SONNAPPA					Dry
		3	SURESH BIN MUNIKEMPANNA URF MUNIKEMPAIAH KUMARI ABILASHA GUARDIAN FATHER FOR MINOR ON BEHALF - T.MMAHESH BIN MUNIKEMPANNA URF MUNIKEMPAIAH (JOINT) AANJINAPPA BIN MUNIKEMPANNA URF MUNIKEMPAIAH (JOINT)					Dry
			Total	**12-19-6.69**	**1-8-3**	**4-28-14.80**	**6-29-10.71**	

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling with in the proposed Special Railway Project in lieu new lane for construction of proposed FLS between Rajankunte Bettahalsuru new BG lane Service Road in the state of Karnataka.

DISTRICT: BANGALORE URBAN **HOBBLY: JALA-2**
TALUK: YALAHANKA **ACQUIRED EXTENT: 17A-9G-15.30AN**
VILLAGE: BETTAHALSURU

Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Hissa No.	Name of Land Owner	Required Extent in A-G-AN				Classification of land
				Total	A Kharab	B Kharab	Balance	
1	246	1	C.MANJUNATH RAJU BIN LATE GANGHADHARA RAJU	0-10-14.72			0-10-14.72	Dry
		2	RAMAKRISHNAPPA					Dry
2	341	1	JITHENDRA VEERVANI BIN LATE MOHAN DAS VEERVANI BEHALF S.P.A HOLDER SHRIMATI.SHAINAGANAPATHI C/o C.B.DEVAIAH	0-36-10.24		0-01-0	0-35-10.24	Dry
		2	C.KRISHNA KUMAR BIN MUKHUNDARAJAN					Dry
		3	C.KRISHNA KUMAR BIN MUKHUNDARAJAN					Dry
		4	JITHENDRA VEERVANI BIN LATE MOHAN DAS VEERVANI BEHALF S.P.A HOLDER SHRIMATI.SHAINAGANAPATHI C/o C.B.DEVAIAH					Dry
3	255	1	JITHENDRA VEERVANI BEHALF S.P.A.HOLDER SHAINA GANAPATHI C/o C.B.DEVAIAH	1-16-1.92			1-16-1.92	Dry
		2	V.S.ARAVINDAN BIN V.R.SINGARACHARI			0-02-00		Dry
		3	JITHENDRA VEERVANI BEHALF S.P.A.HOLDER SHAINA GANAPATHI C/o C.B.DEVAIAH					Dry
		4	JITHENDRA VEERVANI BEHALF S.P.A.HOLDER SHAINA GANAPATHI C/o C.B.DEVAIAH			0-05-00		Dry
		5	JITHENDRA VEERVANI BEHALF S.P.A.HOLDER SHAINA GANAPATHI C/o C.B.DEVAIAH					Dry
		6	JITHENDRA VEERVANI BEHALF S.P.A.HOLDER SHAINA GANAPATHI C/o C.B.DEVAIAH					Dry
4	340	1	ARADHANA JUNJANAWALA C/o SUDEEP JUNJANAWALA	1-4-14.72		0-09-00	00-35-14.72	Dry
		2	ABHISHEK PODDAR BIN VIMAL KUMARPODDAR					Dry
5	350	1	CHIDANANDA BIN LATE M.N.MUNISHYAMAPPA	0-31-14.8		0-09-00	0-22-14.8	Dry
		2	PREMA KRISHNA C/o SRI.S.KRISHNA			0-13-00		Dry
6	351	2	VIJAYA C/o MUNIRAJU	0-8-1.92		0-8-1.92	0-0-0	Dry
		1	B.M.RAJANNA BIN B.P.MARIGANGAPPA K.RAMESH BIN KYATHAPPA			0-02-00		Dry
		3	N.SUBRAMANI BIN POOJARI NARAYANAPPA					Dry
		4	MANJULA C/o B.S.SURESH					Dry
		5	S.SHRINIVAS BIN LATE NANJUNDAIAH					Dry
		6	N.MANJUNATH BIN NANJUNDAPPA					Dry
		7	R.T.JANARDHANA BIN TAMMANNA			0-0-0.50		Dry
		8	A.RAMACHANDRA BIN P.ARUNACHALAM			0-0-0.50		Dry
		9	M.KRISHNA BIN M.P.VENKATARAMANAPPA			0-0-02		Dry
		11	S.GOPAL BIN S.REDDAPPA					Dry
		12	T.K.RUKMINI C/O L.LAVAKUMAR					Dry
7	269	1	H.R.CHANDRASHEKAR BIN LATE H.K RAMAIAH	0-20-5.76			0-20-5.76	Dry
		2	H.R.CHANDRASHEKAR BIN LATE H.K RAMAIAH					Dry
		3	H.R.CHANDRASHEKAR BIN LATE H.K RAMAIAH					Dry
		4	H.R.CHANDRASHEKAR BIN LATE H.K RAMAIAH					Dry
		5	RAMANNA BIN LATE KEMPAIAH					Dry
		6	RAMANNA BIN LATE KEMPAIAH					Dry
		7	RAMANNA BIN LATE KEMPAIAH					Dry
8	268		GOVERNMENT GROVE (SARAKARI GUNDU THOPU)	0-12-7.04		0-12-7.04	0-0-0	Dry
9	26	1	N.MUNIKRISHNAPPA BIN NARAYANAPPA MUNIVENKATAPPA BIN NARAYANAPPA (JOINT)	0-13-1.92		00-0-0.50	0-13-1.42	Dry
		2	B.S.MOHAN KUMAR BIN LATE B.M SIDDARAJU B.M.SHRINIVASMURTHY BIN MUNIYAPPA (JOINT) B.M.GOVINDARAJU BIN MUNIYAPPA (JOINT)		0-0-0.50			Dry
10	23	1	JAYPRAKASH NARAYAN B.N BIN LATE B.R NARAYANA SWAMY	0-24-5.7			0-24-5.7	Cultivable Land
		2	B.N.NAGESH BIN LATE B.N.MANGALAGOWRAMMA VASANTHAKUMARI BIN LATE B.N.MANGALAGOWRAMMA					Cultivable Land
		3	B.N.JEERIGE THONTADHARYA BIN LATE C.NAGARAJU					Cultivable Land & Dry
		4	B.N.JEERIGE THONTADHARYA BIN LATE C.NAGARAJU			0-03-00		Dry
		5	B.S.SHIVAPRASAD BIN LATE B.C.SIDDAPPA B.PUSHPAVATHI C/o LATE SHIVAPRAKASH (ABOVE JOINT) B.S.BHOJARAJ BIN LATE B.C.SIDDAPPA(ABOVE JOINT)		0-01-00			Cultivable Land
		6	B.N.JAIPRAKASH NARAYAN BIN B.R.NARAYANASWAMY					Cultivable Land
		7	B.V.CHANDRAKANTH BIN B.R.VEERAPPA					Dry
11	21	1	B.K.MANJNATHA GOWDA BIN LATE B.M.KRISHNAPPAGOWDA	0-35-8.96			0-35-8.96	Dry
		2	B.N.RAMACHANDRA GOWDA LALITHAMMA C/o B.N.RAMACHANDRAGOWDA (ABOV E JOINT)					Dry
		3	B.D.SURESH					Dry
		4	MUNIAKKAYAMMA URF RAVIKALA					Dry
		5	B.K.MANJNATHA GOWDA BIN LATE B.M.KRISHNAPPAGOWDA					Dry
		6	B.K.MANJNATHA GOWDA BIN LATE B.M.KRISHNAPPAGOWDA					Dry
		7	JAYAMMA C/o LATE B.M.KRISHNAPPA GOWDA					Dry
12	8	1	CHANNAKESHAVA B.K BIN LATE KRISHNAPPA CHANDRA B.K BIN LATE KRISHNAPPA (ABOVE JOINT) MANJUNATH B.K BIN LATE KRISHNAPPA (ABOVE JOINT)	0-24-5.7			0-24-5.7	Dry
		3	ARUNA C/o B.N.MANJUNATHA					Dry
		2	B.K.CHANNAKESHAVA BIN LATE B.S.KRISHNAPPA B.K.CHANDRA BIN LATE B.S.KRISHNAPPA (ABOVE JOINT)					Dry
		4	VIJAYAKUMAR					Dry
		5	VASANTHALAKSHMI C/o RAMANJINI.B.N					Dry

Contd...2

Ensure fair accident compensation for disabled: Experts

BENGALURU, DHNS: A functional disability framework is needed to ensure fair compensation for accident victims whose neurological injuries affect daily functioning, experts said.

The PRS Neurosciences and Mechatronic Research Institute, in association with the Advocates Associations Bangalore, is advocating such a framework to address suffering beyond physical injuries.

At a press meet, Dr Sharan Srinivasan, who specialises in Stereotactic and Functional Neuroscience, said, "About 1.77 lakh road accident deaths have occurred in India, which means around 480 people every day. This data is only about people who have died immediately. Victims of neurological injuries physically seem fine without any problems, but the problem exists in daily functioning."

He said such cases often turn victims into dependents and prevent them from earning a living. "By providing the right treatment within the stipulated time period, we can make sure that these people can continue to function at least to earn minimum wages."

Doctors said better compensation would help victims access treatment earlier, helping control the situation.

Vivek Reddy, president of the association, said people involved in such cases were usually from the middle class and lower middle-class families who struggle to afford treatment. "Insurance companies pay very less compensation, and it is a bitter truth. Based on compassion, the compensation provided to functional disability patients should be increased," Reddy said.

Advocate Manjunath, dealing with insurance cases, said it was important to understand medical complications to secure fair compensation. "We need to know the depth of the accident. We have literature for orthopaedic disability, but with neurological issues, it is difficult to understand."

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B) Regarding Construction works (Civil) at Marasuru and Kasavanhalli Site of Karantaka Reddyjana Sangha.

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by 5 pm on or before 03-01-2026.

Chief Executive Officer – SELCO Foundation

PUBLIC NOTICE

Publics are hereby informed that my client **M/s DS-Max Properties Pvt. Ltd.**, having its office at No. 1794, 14th Main, 30th Cross, HBR Layout, 1st Stage, 5th Block, Bengaluru- 43 and intend to enter into Absolute Sale Deed with Owner/s **Mr M.Roopesh** s/o Sri N.Munireddy is the absolute owner of Agricultural land property bearing Sy. No. **136/2**, which measuring **36 guntas**, situated at **Muthkur Village**, Anugondanahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on **East by:** Land of Sy.No. 136/1, **West by:** Land of Sy.No. 136/4, **North by:** Naganayakanakote Gadi, **South by:** Road and referred to as schedule property of **Item No. I**.

WHEREAS Sri Venkataswamy s/o Late Guttahalli Muniyappa is the absolute owner of Agricultural land property bearing Sy. No. **136/3**, which measuring **1 acre 31.08 guntas**, situated at **Muthkur Village**, Anugondanahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on **East by:** Land of Sy.No. 136/4, **West by:** Private Land, **North by:** Naganayakanakote Gadi, **South by:** Road and referred to as schedule property of **Item No. II**.

WHEREAS Mr M.Satish s/o Sri N.Munireddy is the absolute owner of Agricultural land property bearing Sy. No. **136/4**, which measuring **36 guntas**, situated at **Muthkur Village**, Anugondanahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on **East by:** Land of Sy.No. 136/2, **West by:** Land of Sy.No. 136/3, **North by:** Naganayakanakote Gadi, **South by:** Road and referred to as schedule property of **Item No. III**.

which total measuring of **Item.No.I to III = 36 guntas + 1 acre 31.08 guntas + 36 guntas = 3 acre 23.08 guntas** and commonly bounded on **East by:** Private Land, **West by:** Private Land, **North by:** Naganayakanakote Gadi, **South by:** Road and referred to as **"Composite Schedule Property".**

Any person or Any Authority or Any promoters having any asserting right, title, interest and claims to oppose for Absolute Sale Deed of property and further having any manner of right, title, claims etc., and may lodge their objections, claims over the property along with relevant papers in support of their claims, right to the below address within **10** days from the date of this notice, if any objections fails to comply, my client shall take further steps and deemed for entering into Absolute Sale Deed of property.

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Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Hissa No.	Name of Land Owner	Required Extent in A-G-AN				Classification of land
				Total	A Kharab	B Kharab	Balance	
13	7		UMADEVI C/O LATE ESHWARAPPA B.E.YATHISH BIN LATE ESHWARAPPA(JOINT) B.E.MANOHAR BIN LATE ESHWARAPPA(JOINT)	0-3-8.32			0-3-8.32	Dry
14	6		UMADEVI C/O LATE ESHWARAPPA B.E.YATHISH BIN LATE ESHWARAPPA (JOINT) B.E.MANOHAR BIN LATE ESHWARAPPA(JOINT)	0-15-5.12			0-15-5.12	Dry
15	5	1	MUTHYALAMMA BIN HANUMAIAH	0-32-10.88			0-32-10.88	Dry
		2	SAMPANGI RAMAIAH BIN VENKATA RAMANAPPA CHINNANNAIAH BIN VENKATASHAMAPPA S.K SUKANYA C/o M.P MALESH B.M SRINIVAS BIN MUNISHYAMAPPA RAMAPPA BIN CHIKKARAMANNA					Dry
		10	B.H NAGARAJU BIN LATE PILLAKAMMA					Dry
		11	MUTHYALAMMA BIN HANUMAIAH					Dry
		12	MARAMMA C/o HANUMAIAH					Dry
		13	N. KALPANA C/o B.S NARAYANA GOWDA					Dry
		14	VIJAYKUMAR BIN LATE MUNIYAPPA					Dry
		15	NARAYANA SWAMY BIN LATE MUNIYAPPA					Dry
		16	MANJUNATHA BIN LATE MUNIYAPPA					Dry
		3	B.H NAGARAJU BIN LATE PILLAKAMMA					Dry
		4	MARAMMA C/o HANUMAIAH					Dry
		5	VIJAYKUMAR BIN LATE MUNIYAPPA					Dry
		6	NARAYANA SWAMY BIN LATE MUNIYAPPA					Dry
		7	MANJUNATHA BIN LATE MUNIYAPPA					Dry
		8	MUTHYALAMMA BIN HANUMAIAH					Dry
		9	B.H NAGARAJU BIN LATE PILLAKAMMA					Dry
16	325		VENKATARAMANAPPA BIN LATE DODDACHANNARAYAPPA	0-31-00			0-31-00	Dry
17	317		VENKATARAMANAPPA BIN LATE DODDACHANNARAYAPPA	0-24-11.52	0-15-0		0-9-11.52	Dry
18	316	1	V.P.AMARANATHAREDDY	1-12-10.24		0-0-0.25	1-12-9.99	Dry
		2	N.NANJAPPA			0-0-0.25		Dry
		3	S.SHRINIVAS			0-0-0.50		Dry
19	315	2	K.REVATHILAKSHMI C/o KUMAR	0-16-10.24		0-09-00	0-07-10.24	Dry
		1	GLOBAL TECH PARK PVT LTD rep by its Managing Director Mr.Satish P.Chandra rep by his SPA Holder T.Satish Rao			0-04-00		Dry
		4	GLOBAL TECH PARK PVT LTD rep by its Managing Director Mr.Satish P.Chandra rep by his SPA Holder					Dry
		3	GLOBAL TECH PARK PVT LTD rep by its Managing Director Mr.Satish P.Chandra rep by his SPA Holder T.Satish Rao					Dry
		5	N.NANJAPPA BIN LATE NARAYANAPPA					Dry
		6	S.SHRINIVAS BIN P.C.SHEKAR					Dry
		7	V.P.AMARANATHAREDDY BIN RANGAREDDY					Dry
20	320		SARKARI KANCHAKARARA SHMASHANA (CREMOTORIUM)	0-12-8.32		0-12-8.32	0-0-0	Dry
21	324		MANISHA KUMARI BEHALF OF ABHISHEK PRIYADARSHI ABHISHEK PRIYADARSHI BIN NARESH SHARMA (ABOVE JOINT)	0-9-0.64			0-9-0.64	Dry
22	323	2	Sri.BASAVANNA DEVARU (GOD)	0-20-8.32			0-20-8.32	Dry
		3	B.C MOHAN BIN B.R CHANNABASAPPA					Dry
		1	M. ALTAF PASHA BIN ABDUL MAZEED					Dry
		4	SHRIMATI. MAMATHA C/o RAMESH D.C					Dry
		5	NEELAMMA C/o LATE GANGANNA					Dry
		6	MAMATHA B.R C/o LATE S. PRAKASH					
		7	Smt. B.K BHAGHYAMMA C/o B. MUNIRAJU					
		8	RATHNAMMA Y C/o K.B RAMAKRISHNA REDDY					
23	322		NAGARATHNAMMA C/o LATE SIDDALINGAPPA	0-12-11.52			0-12-11.52	Dry
24	24	2	SHAIK SAIBANA BIN LATE MAZEEN MAHABOOB BASHA BIN LATE MAZEEN (ABOVE JOINT)	0-30-13.44			0-30-13.44	Dry
		1	MAHABOOB BASHA BIN MAZEEN ALIAS SHAIK MAZEEM					
25	25		B.S.MOHAN KUMAR BIN LATE B.M SIDDARAJU B.M.SHRINIVASMURTHY BIN MUNIYAPPA(JOINT) B.M.GOVINDARAJU BIN MUNIYAPPA (JOINT) B.S MOHAN KUMAR BIN LATE B.M SIDDARAJU B.M SHRINIVAS MURTHY BIN LATE MUNIYAPPA(ABOVE JOINT) B.M GOVINDA RAJU BIN LATE MUNIYAPPA(ABOVE JOINT) N.MUNIKRISHNAPPA BIN LATE NARAYANAPPA (ABOVE JOINT)	0-4-8.96			0-4-8.96	Dry
26	31	1/A	MAHESH BABU L BIN N.LAXMAIAH	0-32-0.64			0-32-0.64	Dry
		2	H.V.SUSHILAMMA C/o LATE N.SHIVANNA					Dry
		3	B.R PEMA KUMARI C/o LATE BASAVARAJU					Dry
		1B	MAHESH BABU L BIN N.LAKSHMAIAH					Dry
		4	AJAY B.M BIN LATE B.M.MANJUNATH					Dry
		5	ANAND.N BIN NANJEMARIYAPPA					Dry
		6	H.MALAMMA C/o LATE B.M.ASHWATHAPPA AKSHAYAGOWDA BIN LATE B.M.ASHWATHAPPA(ABOVE JOINT)					Dry
		7	SUNIL KUMAR BIN LATE B.M.RAJANNA					Dry
		8	B.A.SHRINIVAS BIN LATE B.M ANNAYAPPA					Dry
		9	B.A.RAMESH BIN LATE B.M ANNAYAPPA					Dry
		10	LATHA B.S C/o LATE B.A CHANDRASHEKAR					Dry
		11	MAHESHBABU L. BIN N.LAKSHMAIAH					Dry
		12	ASHWATHAMMA C/o LATE B.M.RAJANNA					Dry
27	34	1	Mr.MAHESH BABU L BIN Mr.N.LAKSHMAIAH	0-20-3.84			0-20-3.84	Dry
		2	MAHESH BABU.L BIN N.LAKSHMAIAH		0-02-00			Dry
28	58	1	UMAVATHI K.D/o Sri.N.KEMPANNA WIFE OF Sri.SRINIVAS TILAK	0-6-12.16			0-6-12.16	Dry
		2	MARAKKA C/o CHANNAIAH					Dry
29	59	2	MUNIKRISHNAPPA BIN LATE NARAYANAPPA	0-7-10.24			0-7-10.24	Dry
		3	A.RAVI BIN LATE ANJANAPPA					Dry
		1B	UMAVATHI K.D/o Sri.N.KEMPANNA WIFE OF Sri.SRINIVAS TILAK					Dry
		4A	M/s SHREE PROMOTORS AND DEVELOPERS Represented by its partner MAHESH BABU.L					Dry
		4C	M/s SHREE PROMOTORS AND DEVELOPERS Represented by its partner MAHESH BABU.L		0-0-0.50			Dry
		6	M/s SHREE PROMOTORS AND DEVELOPERS Represented by its partner MAHESH BABU.L		0-0-0.50			Dry
		5	M/s SHREE PROMOTORS AND DEVELOPERS Represented by its partner MAHESH BABU.L					Dry
		1A	M/s SHREE PROMOTORS AND DEVELOPERS Represented by its partner MAHESH BABU.L					Dry
		4B	M/s SHREE PROMOTORS AND DEVELOPERS Represented by its partner MAHESH BABU.L					Dry
30	60	1	B.N.SHIVA KUMAR BIN LATE SOMESHAIAH	0-12-13.42			0-12-13.42	Dry
		2	MAHESHBABU L. BIN N.LAKSHMAIAH					Dry
31	61		B.N.SHIVA KUMAR BIN LATE SOMESHAIAH	0-16-5.76		0-02-0	0-14-5.76	Dry
32	62		C.RAJANNA BIN T.CHANNAPPA B.C.SHIVARAJ BIN LATE CHIKKANNA(ABOVE JOINT)	0-8-8.32			0-8-8.32	Dry
			TOTAL	**17-9-15.30**	**0-18-1.50**	**2-9-5.78**	**15-11-13.27**	**Dry**

In case of any typographical errors, the original document stored in the office will be final.

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Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/744/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Assembly unanimously clears Bill against social boycotts

It proposes 3-yr jail, Rs 1L fine for guilty

BELAGAVI, DHNS

Social Welfare Minister Dr H C Mahadevappa speaks in the Legislative Assembly on Thursday.

The police can register cases against social boycotts suo motu, Social Welfare Minister Dr H C Mahadevappa said in the Legislative Assembly during the passage of a Bill criminalising ostracisation on Thursday.

Mahadevappa also said officials who do not act on complaints will face action on the grounds of dereliction of duty.

The Karnataka Social Boycott (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Bill was unanimously passed with support from lawmakers across parties.

Piloting the Bill, Mahadevappa said Architect of the Indian Constitution Dr B R Ambedkar also was a victim of social boycott.

"At school, he wasn't allowed to touch textbooks," he said. "Social boycotts go against the principles of the Constitution and basic human rights."

Senior BJP lawmaker S Suresh Kumar heaved a sigh of relief that Karnataka does not have Haryana-like Khap Panchayats.

"Social boycotts happen because of a mindset. Unless that mindset goes, laws may not be effective," he said. "The very fact that we're introducing a law like this is unfortunate."

Former home minister Araga Jnanendra of the BJP said this Bill should have been introduced long ago.

Senior Congress member T B Jayachandra said the Bill should contain a provision with which the police can register cases suo motu. Mahadevappa accepted this and moved the Bill with the necessary amendment.

The Bill proposes up to three years of imprisonment and a fine of Rs 1 lakh on any person who imposes or facilitates social boycott.

The Bill lists 19 forms of social boycott, which include refusal to do business, denying opportunities, obstruction from participation in events or blocking access to facilities and cutting off ties.

K'taka's irony: Highest per-capita income, highest BPL cards

Centre has identified 7.76 lakh 'suspicious' beneficiaries: KBG

BENGALURU, DHNS

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda (KBG) expressed shock that 73%-75% of the state's population held Below Poverty Line (BPL) cards, and called for "streamlining" this by removing ineligible ration beneficiaries.

"Karnataka has the highest per-capita income in India. Karnataka also has the highest number of BPL cards in India. How does one explain this contradiction?" Gowda said in the Assembly late on Wednesday night during a calling-attention motion.

"There are 4.44 crore people under Priority Households (PHH). This is the highest in the country," Gowda said. "Over the years, we (governments) have included so many people without verifying genuineness. It needs streamlining."

The Centre, Gowda said, has identified 7.76 lakh "suspicious" beneficiaries. "These 7.76 lakh people have been listed under 14 categories. They include income tax payers, their GST turnover is above Rs 25 lakh, there are people who're directors in companies, some of them hold public distribution system (PDS) cards in other states," he said.

The state government is verifying the list of 7.76 lakh people identified by the Centre. "Those found genuine will be restored. Those who are ineligible will be moved to the non-PHH category, or Above Poverty Line," Gowda said.

During Question Hour on Thursday, Food & Civil Supplies Minister K H Muniyappa also pointed out that Karnataka had a high number of BPL card holders.

"When it comes to GST collections, we're second in the country," he said. "Normally, BPL cardholders should be 40%-50% of the state's population."

In Karnataka, to be identified as a PHH, the family's annual income has to be below Rs 1.2 lakh. Muniyappa called for a review of the income limit. "Today, the daily wage is as high as Rs 500. This will make the annual income Rs 1.8 lakh. But the government has fixed the limit at Rs 1.2 lakh. We've discussed reviewing this," Muniyappa said.

Assembly passes KPME Bill

BELAGAVI, DHNS: The Assembly passed on Thursday the Karnataka Private Medical Establishments (Amendment) Bill, which seeks to bring mental health establishments under legal framework.

It seeks to replace an ordinance that was promulgated.

Under the Bill, new private medical establishments, including hospitals and clinics, will get a six-month 'provisional registration' to start operations without inspection.

Through the Bill, the government has decided that private medical establishments need not be inspected under KPME, if they undergo third-party audit by Quality Control of India. Such establishments will get KPME registration within 10 days, without any inspection.

Similarly, establishments that furnish accreditation certificates from National Quality Assurance Standards, National Accreditation Board for Hospital and Healthcare Provides or Quality and Accreditation Institute will get KPME registration in 10 days, without further checks.

TIME OUT

Members Dinesh Gooligowda, Nazeer Ahmed, Saleem Ahmed and Manjunath Bhandary engage in a discussion with Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and Leader of the House N S Boseraju in the Legislative Council on Thursday. DH PHOTO/RANJU P

Assembly passes 6 resolutions on N-K

BELAGAVI, DHNS

The Assembly on Thursday passed six resolutions urging the union government to take adequate measures to ensure the development of north Karnataka (N-K) region.

With resolutions being passed during winter session in Belagavi in north Karnataka, the move is being analysed as a strategy by Congress to put pressure on the Centre and urge it to take steps to develop the historically backward region.

One of the resolutions urged the Centre to shift at least 25% of the 73 central institutes, research centres, higher education centres and public sector undertakings (PSUs) currently in Bengaluru to north Karnataka.

Another resolution urged the union government to form a special central assistance scheme to provide Rs 5,000 crore to Kalyana Karnataka region akin to the state government providing Rs 5,000 crore to Kalyana Karnataka Regional Development Board.

The House also passed a resolution urging the union government to establish an All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Raichur in Kalyana Karnataka region.

The fourth one urged the Centre to declare Upper Krishna project-3 as a central project. The award of the Brijesh Kumar tribunal has to be notified in the Centre's gazette and implemented, it said. Two other resolutions related to the region were also passed.

Legislative Council passes five Bills

BELAGAVI, DHNS: The Legislative Council on Thursday second half, passed five bills that were earlier passed in the Legislative Assembly.

They were: Karnataka Appropriation (No 4) Bill, Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (Amendment) Bill, Karnataka State Road Safety Authority (Amendment) Bill, Bombay Public Trust (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, and Drugs and Cosmetics (Karnataka Amendment) Bill.

When Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy tabled K'taka State Road Safety Authority (Amendment) Bill, saying the bill is to omit collection of up to Rs 1,000 cess from vehicles, BJP MLCs asked whether more cess would be collected. Reddy clarified that there was no proposal to levy new tax.

During this discussion, BJP and Congress members started blaming each other, and chaos prevailed. Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti adjourned the House for 10 minutes.

Panel to probe drugs purchase at high rates at CIMS

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Admitting that tenders were awarded to procure life-saving drugs at exorbitant prices at Chikkamagaluru Institute of Medical Sciences Institute, Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil on Thursday told the Council that an inquiry by an expert committee will be conducted and it will also be instructed to verify the prices of medicines being procured in all government medical institutes in the state.

In reply to a calling attention motion by BJP MLCs C T Ravi, Bharati Shetty and others, Patil stated that difference was found in the prices of medicines purchased by the Chikkamagaluru institute, compared to those in Kodagu, Haveri and Raichur, after a complaint in this regard was received.

"Tender was awarded to purchase 416 types of medicines from six agencies at a cost of Rs 4.90 crore for 2025-26. Now, supply of medicines worth Rs 4.53 crore is withheld, while the supply of essential life-saving drugs worth Rs 36.28 lakh is received," he said.

Ravi said, "Such irregularity might have taken place in other medical institutes also."

The minister also opined that supply of medicines to the institutes may get disrupted if a centralised tender for the entire state was awarded and if there was some delay.

Therefore, autonomous institutes are given the freedom to call tenders for medicines they require, he said, adding that the expert committee will also be asked to suggest the ceiling for prices of medicines to be procured.

Escoms incurred excess expenditure of Rs 111 cr on central project: CAG

BELAGAVI, DHNS

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India's (CAG) report on the Integrated Power Distribution System (IPDS) has pointed out that five electricity supply companies (Escoms) overspent on projects under the scheme and also lost out on central assistance.

The five Escoms are Bescom, Mescom, Cescom, Hescom and Gescom. The funding pattern for the scheme was 60 per cent central assistance, 30 per cent through loans and the remaining 10 per cent from own revenue resources.

A project cost of Rs 1,380 crore was approved for IPDS, of which Rs 828 crore was to be received as a central grant.

However, the report said the Escoms incurred excess expenditure of Rs 110.9 crore over and above the sanctioned cost in implementing the scheme, with Rs 38.5 crore spent solely on procurement of materials above the guidance value.

"Further, delay in submission of documents for claiming the last tranche of grants resulted in an additional interest burden on borrowed funds to the extent of Rs 5.45 crore. Grants to the tune of Rs 12.8 crore were also foregone by Bescom and Mescom due to delay in finalising tender for feeder metering (by KPTCL), inability to tender and award the work, and non-completion of solar components," the report stated.

Cabinet clears projects worth Rs 3,500 cr for North Karnataka

BELAGAVI, DHNS: The Cabinet on Thursday cleared the projects worth Rs 3,500 crore, specially for North Karnataka region.

A day before the end of the winter session, the government decided to give a significant contribution to the northern region by approving projects worth Rs 3,500 cr, most of which are major irrigation and infrastructure projects.

Other projects

In Raibag and Chikkodi taluks of Belagavi district, to lift water from the Krishna river to supply water to Raibag high-level distribution canal and Raibag distribution canal, a lift irrigation project of Rs 210 crore has been approved.

In Badami and Bilagi constituencies of Bagalkot district, administrative approval has been given for revised estimate of Rs 1,503 cr for Kerur lift irrigation project.

In Belagavi city, construction of a flyover from national highway-48 to Dharmaveer Sambhaji Circle, with a total length of 2.03 km, has been approved at an estimated cost of Rs 275.53 cr.

Admin approvals

Administrative approvals were given to many project. They are: To fill 19 lakes in Yelburga and Kukanoor taluks with Krishna water at a cost of Rs 272 cr.

To provide irrigation facility from Narayanpur left bank canal to areas of Maski taluk in Raichur at a cost of Rs 990 cr.

To Karesiddeshwar lift irrigation project where water will be lifted from Krishna river in Raibag, Belagavi and supplied to Chikkodi branch canal at a cost of Rs 198.9 cr.

Modifications were allowed to certain aspects of Indira food kit. Futher, approval was given for Karnataka District Judicial Reforms Bill–2025.

For Bengaluru

Funds were cleared for development projects in Bengaluru. They are: Rs 49.3 cr sanctioned to BWSSB for replacement of pumps at TK Halli, Harohalli and Tataguni stage-1 and stage-2 pumping stations of Cauvery water supply project.

Rs 38.33 cr for TK Halli, comprehensive operation and maintenance for 5 years of 550 MLD water treatment plant of Cauvery water supply project stage-4 phase-2.

Rs 1,714.83 cr for collection, transportation and processing of 2,250 MT of construction and demolition waste daily, under PPP model, in Greater Bengaluru Authority limits.

Rs 73.75 cr for new government equipment workshop and training centre and basic infrastructure in Madhugiri taluk, Tumakuru district.

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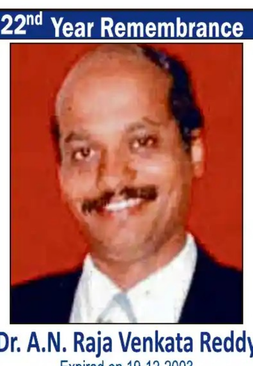
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Internal quota: Assembly passes 6-6-5 formula Bill

Siddu opposed SC quota hike in 2022: Bellad; CM says BJP MLA 'lying'

BELAGAVI, DHNS

The Legislative Assembly on Thursday passed the Karnataka Scheduled Castes (Sub-Classification) Bill, 2025, ratifying the 6-6-5 formula of the government, even as both sides tried to claim credit for the decision.

Piloting the Bill, Social Welfare Minister Dr H C Mahadevappa explained the background of the internal reservation issue, and how the state government had "modified" the Justice Nagamohan Das Commission report (1-6-5-4-1 formula to 6-6-5).

As per the 6-6-5 formula, Madigas and 15 affiliated castes get 6% reservation in Group A, Holeyas and 18 affiliated castes get 6% reservation in Group B and Lambani, Bhovi, Korma, Korcha and 59 'most backward' communities get 5% reservation in Group C (Adi Karnataka, Adi Dravida and Adi Andhra communities can either take reservation under Group A or B but their choice will be final and irreversible).

Referring to the demand of the 59 'most backward' SC castes seeking a separate 1% reservation, Mahadevappa noted that they would be given first preference in recruitment in Group C.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah speaks during a debate on internal quota for SCs in the Assembly at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi on Thursday.

Bellad takes a dig at CM

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Arvind Bellad noted that the previous Basavaraj Bommai-led government had increased reservation for SCs from 15% to 17% and had provided internal reservation based on the 6–5.5–4.5–1% formula.

"Siddaramaiah, who was then the Leader of the Opposition, had said this is impossible, cannot be permitted as per law and that BJP is lying. But today I welcome this Bill which provides for the same 17% reservation."

I didn't oppose hike: CM

Taking strong exception to Bellad's claim, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said: "I have never spoken against 17% to SCs and 7% to STs. You shouldn't give wrong information like this... Will you give evidence? I have never opposed it. Bellad is lying".

Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka chipped in with a copy of the debate between himself and Siddaramaiah (then LoP).

Quoting the chief minister, Ashoka said: "The reservation cannot exceed 50% as per the Supreme Court's (ruling) in the Indra Sawhney case, there needs to be a Constitutional amendment and it must be added to the 9th schedule. I have mentioned in the all-party meeting that this (ordinance) is an eyewash."

Bellad asked Siddaramaiah to withdraw his charge.

Responding to this, Siddaramaiah explained that in the very debate he had stated that the reservation cap "must increase" beyond the 50% cap.

"It must happen. The SCs must get 17% reservation as per their population. The STs should get 7% reservation...," the chief minister said quoting his earlier speech.

'Not empowered then'

IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge explained that it was indeed an "eyewash," as the Supreme Court had not yet empowered the states to provide internal reservation for the SCs in 2022 (In August 2024, the Supreme Court had ruled that states were empowered to provide internal reservation).

Meanwhile, Opposition leaders sought a separate reservation for 59 'most backward' SC communities that had been clubbed with 'less backward' Lambani, Bhovi, Korma and Korcha communities.

Another Bill

The Assembly also passed the Karnataka State Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

'Provide 1% reservation for nomadic SC communities'

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's economic advisor Basavaraj Rayareddi urged the government to increase the reservation percentage for Scheduled Castes (SCs) to 18%, so that the nomadic SC communities could be provided a separate 1% reservation.

"According to the 2011 census, the population of SCs is 17.15%. So, I request the chief minister to increase it to 18%. That way, a separate 1% reservation can be provided to the nomadic communities. It (reservation) will become 57%. Let's go to 75%. Tamil Nadu is already providing 69% (reservation)."

Democracy in action: Making the Indian Constitution work

CONSTITUTION IS LIGHT

Curated by DH DECCAN HERALD | ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ

The Constitution is the bedrock of Indian democracy, the citizens are its backbone and the parliament is the cornerstone of a democratic system.

The longest written national constitution with Dr B R Ambedkar as its architect has held the country for 75 years and is indestructible. It is a dynamic document and has seen over a hundred amendments and interpretations. It belongs to the people. The very first sentence of the preamble begins with, "We the people of India" and ends with "„hereby adopt, enact and give to ourselves this Constitution."

The key elements of a democratic government include people's participation, the resolution of conflicts, and equality and justice.

A majority of enlightened citizens strongly believe in Fundamental Rights, but unfortunately, they constitute the silent majority. Inaction and silence is a crime. It is not enough to believe that truth will ultimately prevail. Citizens must take active steps to see that deceit does not have a very long reign before the ultimate moment of truth arrives.

Participation in a democracy

A system can be described as democratic only if people are allowed to participate in the political process. The right to vote is considered as the most effective way to participate in governance of the nation. There are many ways of participating in the democratic process.

The most direct way is by voting in a free and fair election, and electing leaders to represent the people in the parliament, legislative assemblies and the various civic bodies.

The Adult Franchise or the right to vote grants all adult citizens the right to vote without discrimination based on their caste, class, gender, religion, race or wealth. This principle is the cornerstone of democracy., underscoring the equality of every citizen by giving each individual one vote of equal value.

Speaking truth to power

Besides voting, citizens can participate by becoming a watchdog on the functioning of an elected government and criticising, if and whenever necessary. This is done by what is popularly known by the phrase, "speaking truth to power."

Speaking the truth to power involves confronting individuals and authorities with courage, integrity and honesty, making critical analysis of erroneous policies and pointing out social, economic and gender injustice. The whole approach and tactic of speaking the truth is non-violent. Individuals or groups offer reasoned criticism of government actions and policies and raise awareness about social inequalities and human right abuses. It challenges governance which is oppressive and system which is ineffective. Advocacy for change and alternative solutions are part of the whole process.

How does one speak truth to power? This is no easy task. It requires individual and collective efforts. The work involves mining data and facts with specific examples as evidence. The message delivered needs to be assertive but respectful with a sense of moral indignation. The focus should be on policies, not the person.

Indirect participation

Indirect participation may be construed to be a neutral way to participate in the democratic process. Press, television and electronic media and to a certain extent the judicial process can be considered as indirect participation. Public interest litigation (PIL) can also be considered as a means to participate in a democracy.

Citizens can also participate in peaceful protests, processions, rallies and signature campaigns. They can express their opinion in articles, write letters to editors and participate in debates.

While a democracy allows people to participate in various ways, not all sections of the society, such as the marginalised, are able to do so. Thus, social movements that seek to challenge the government and its functioning play a key role in a democracy.

Plato in his "The Republic" describes a cycle of "political evolution", where political structure degenerates over time. It needs to be checked from time to time by enlightened citizens to keep it stable by direct and indirect participation of the democratic process. Authorities and individuals may attempt to suppress the voice of protest but ultimately truth will always prevail.

Resolution of conflicts

In a democratic set up, a constitution can function effectively only if the elections are free and fair and the government in power responds to the righteous demands of the citizens.

One can find unity in diversity in terms of culture, language, religion and region. Sometimes it can also be a cause for conflicts. It is the duty of the Government to resolve conflicts based on peaceful means of resolving differences between citizens and groups through well-established laws, dialogue and institutions. Conflict resolution is a fundamental element of a democratic government

Religious celebrations and processions can lead to conflict between communities. In a multi-language country like India, language can cause conflicts. Linguistic borders and rivers by the way of sharing of water can also become a source of conflicts.

The government is responsible for fair and impartial resolution of conflicts according to the rules and laws laid down in the Indian constitution. The Indian Constitution is mere words if there is no just, reasonable and affirmative action both on the part of the government and the citizen.

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Hate Speech Bill passed..

Hate Speech, from Page 1

The Bill proposes a jail term of one year, extendable up to seven with a fine of Rs 50,000 for hate crime. "For subsequent offences, we are reducing the maximum imprisonment from 10 years to seven, with a fine of Rs 1 lakh," the HM said.

Intervening, BJP's V Sunil Kumar decried the Bill as "dangerous" and lacking forethought. "If I quote a holy book that contains violence, will that be hate speech?" he asked.

Ashoka said the proposed law would turn the police into "Hitlers" and charged that it would infringe upon freedom of expression. "This [Bill] will become a *Brahmastra* to settle political scores," he said, adding that the Bharatiya Nyay Samhita already had provisions to fight hate speech.

Ashoka said the definition of "hate crime" and "disharmony" was unclear. "Even journalists can be jailed," he warned. "What else can we expect from [Congress] that imposed the Emergency?"

There was an exchange between Congress and BJP members when Ambedkar came up during the debate. Urban Development Minister B S Suresha's statement that BJP MLAs had "burned" the coastal region led to pandemonium and a protest in the well. It was during this that Khader proceeded to pass the Bill. Ashoka and others slammed Khader. The Opposition demanded further debate and a select committee for review. When Khader did not agree, they walked out.

Include 56% quota hike in 9th Schedule: House to Centre

BELAGAVI, DHNS

The Legislative Assembly on Thursday passed a resolution urging the Union government to include the state's 56% reservation decision in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution, to provide legal protection from the 50% cap on reservations imposed by the Supreme Court in the Indra Sawhney case in 1992.

Placing the resolution, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil noted that the resolution was being passed to protect the interests of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes.

The resolution comes at a time when courts have quashed decisions by various state governments to enhance the reservation quota beyond the 50% ceiling.

In 2024, the Patna High Court had ruled the Bihar government's decision to enhance reservations to 65% as unconstitutional. In October 2025, the Telangana High Court stayed the state government's decision increasing the reservation for local body polls beyond 50%.

The Assembly also passed a resolution urging the Union government to transfer at least 25% of the 73 national-level institutes currently in Bengaluru to the North Karnataka region.

Plan for 7 roads in buffer zones...

Buffer zones, from Page 1

However, concerns have also been raised that these corridors could be vulnerable to flooding. Of the seven roads proposed in the first phase, B-SMILE has already taken up the construction work on the 6.04-km stretch between Inner Ring Road (Koramangala) to Sarjapur Road (Iblur). The Rs 42-crore project, which passes on the buffer of Bellandur Lake, will largely come up on defence land. Formalities for commencing civil works on the remaining stretches are more or less complete, officials said.

When the Sanchara Yukta scheme was conceptualised, the buffer zone norms were in the range of 50 metres for primary drains to 25 metres for tertiary drains, which discouraged development activities even if they were private properties.

In September this year, the state government, however, reduced the buffer zone width to 5 metres (for tertiary drains), 10 metres (for secondary drains) and 15 metres (for primary drains). This is likely to pose fresh challenges for the project as private land owners are unlikely to accept TDR as compensation when they can develop their property themselves, following the reduction in buffer zone.

Overall, B-SMILE requires acquisition of about 740 acres of land for building these seven stretches. Clement Jayakumar, member of Mahadevapura Taskforce was skeptical of the project. "Building roads in buffer zones of the lakes is sure to affect the ecosystem of the water body while a similar plan on the storm water drain will only lead to flooding," he said, adding the effort may not decongest traffic. B-SMILE's technical director B S Prahalladt said the land acquisition would be a challenge.

D'sthala case: Complainant released on bail

SHIVAMOGGA, DHNS: C N Chinnaiah, the complainant-witness in the alleged Dharmasthala mass burial case who was arrested for perjury, was released from the Central Prison at Sogane near the city on Thursday.

The Principal District and Sessions Court of Mangaluru had granted him conditional bail on November 24 on remitting Rs 1 lakh as security deposit.

Chinnaiah's wife Mallika and sister had come from Mangaluru on Wednesday night, and Chinnaiah's lawyer had submitted the bail application documents to the Chief Superintendent of the Central Prison Ranganath. Chinnaiah was released at 8.30 am. The police had made tight security arrangements near the jail.

Home Minister G Parameshwara speaks in the Legislative Council on Thursday.

12 cases registered for raising pro-Pakistan slogans: HM

BELAGAVI, DHNS: In the last three years, the state government has registered a total 12 cases against those who shouted pro-Pakistan slogans, of which six are suo motu cases.

Replying to a question by BJP MLC C T Ravi, Home Minister G Parameshwara on Thursday said, "Of the 12 cases, charge sheet has been submitted in five cases. 'B' report has been filed in two cases, three cases are under investigation, C report filed in one case while a forensic lab report is pending in one case," he explained.

Replying to another question related to his department by JD(S) member T A Sharavana, the home minister requested members not to target police fraternity over a few instances of police personnel indulging in criminal acts.

"It is not that the police are doing nothing. There is peace in society because police are active. Compared to other states, the crime rate is less in Karnataka," said the home minister.

Parameshwara informed the House that there are recommendations to dismiss the police officials, who have been involved in criminal activities.

India, Oman sign free-trade pact

Oman, from Page 1

The pact with Oman offers India clear strategic and supply-side gains. It is expected to improve market access for Indian exports, enhance regulatory cooperation, particularly in pharmaceuticals and reinforce energy security by stabilising supplies of crude oil, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and fertilisers. The deal also promises 100% foreign direct investment by Indian companies in major services sectors in Oman through commercial presence.

"It unlocks nearly universal duty-free access for Indian goods in the Omani market, expands services commitments across key high-growth sectors, and ensures greater mobility for Indian professionals. The agreement reinforces India's commitment to inclusive growth benefiting farmers, artisans, workers, and MSMEs while safeguarding core national interests," said Goyal.

Oman is a key strategic partner of India in the Gulf region. It can serve as a gateway for Indian goods and services to the wider West Asia and Africa region. Nearly seven lakh Indian nationals reside in Oman, including Indian merchant families with a presence of over 200–300 years.

"Being the key gateway to the Middle East and Africa, the trade pact with Oman promises a lot of business opportunities, especially for MSMEs. The landmark agreement is expected to further strengthen Indian firms' integration into the global supply chain," said Pankaj Chadha, Chairman, Engineering Export Promotion Council of India.

Oman is India's third-largest export destination in the Gulf region.

Parl set to pass new rural job...

Bill, from Page 1

Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan replied to the discussion amid sloganeering by Opposition MPs who had entered the Well of the House.

As the minister was replying, some MPs tore the Bill and threw it in the air, while some others made paper planes and flew them.

When the Bill was taken up for passage, some MPs entered the inner cordon of the Well, where the Secretary General and other officials sit while the proceedings are on, and shouted slogans.

Speaker Om Birla rushed through the passage and adjourned the House for the day, thus binning a discussion on air pollution to be initiated by senior Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

The Bill was later sent to the Rajya Sabha and taken up after the passage of the SHANTI Bill, which seeks to allow the private sector in the nuclear power sector and omit suppliers' liability.

In the Upper House, the debate may go beyond 3 am as eight hours are allocated and conclude with Chouhan's reply.

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भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL LAND ACQUISITION OFFICER & COMPETENT AUTHORITY FOR LAND ACQUISITION
NATIONAL HIGHWAY 69
TUMKUR DISTRICT, TUMKUR

PUBLIC NOTICE
(UNDER SECTION 3(G) OF N.H. ACT 1956)

S.O. 5718(E), Date: 09.12.2025— Whereas by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, **3731 (E) Dated:13/08/2025,** published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) issued under sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highway Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared its intention to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for building (widening/Two/ Four laning etc.,), maintenance, management and operation **of NH-69 in the stretch of land from Design Km 347.500 (Intersection with NH-48 at Km 116.800) to Km 367.700 on Sira to Badavanahalli section in the district of TUMKUR in the state of KARNATAKA, in the state of KARNATAKA;**

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in **"Vijaya Karnataka" and "Deccan Herald" both dated: 18th August 2025" ;** under sub-section (3) of section 3A of the said Act;

And whereas the Competent Authority has received objections filed under Section 3-C, considered and settled the same appropriately;

And whereas, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the competent authority has submitted its report to the Central Government;

Now, therefore, upon receipt of the said report of the competent authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by the sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that the land specified in the said Schedule should be acquired for the aforesaid purpose;

And further, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the land specified in the said Schedule shall vest absolutely in the Central Government, free from all encumbrances. The land owners can submit their statements if any, along with relevant property documents to the below address.

Name of the Villages	Enquiry Date and Time	The place where the land owners / interested persons have to appear & submit / their claims
SIRA TALUK Magodu, Borasandra, Guligenahalli, Nyayagere, Halkuru, Halkuru Kaval, Gummanahalli, Emmerahalli, Teggahalli.	30-12-2025 FROM 11.00 AM to 2.00 PM	INSPECTION BUNGALOW, SIRA
MADHUGIRI TALUK Lakshmipura (Venkatapura), Dodderi, Badavanahalli, Badavanahalli amrutmahal Kavl, Konnahalli, Konapanayakanahalli		

Sd/-
SPECIAL LAND ACQUISITION OFFICER
& COMPETENT AUTHORITY FOR LAND ACQUISITION,
NATIONAL HIGHWAY 69
1st Floor, Impana Arcade, Geddalahalli Road,
Saptagiri Extension, Tumkur-572102

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures within the stretch of land from Design Km 347.500 (Intersection with NH-48 at Km 116.800) to Km 367.700 on Sira to Badavanahalli section of NH-69 in the district of TUMKUR in the state of KARNATAKA.

STATE : KARNATAKA **DISTRICT: TUMKUR**

Sl. No	Survey Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area in Hectares	Name of the Land Owner / Interested Person
1	2	3	4	5	6
TALUK: SIRA					
VILLAGE: MAGODU					
1	199	Government	Kharab	0.015	Govt Karabu
VILLAGE: BORASANDRA					
2	120	Private	Dry/NAK	0.0758775	M.D.Rahamat ulla S/o Late Abdhul Rashid Sab, Nazeem pasha S/o Late Abdhul Rashid Sab - Bho.Pa Nazeem pasha S/o Late Abdhul Rashid Sab - Bho.Pa M.D.Rahamat ulla S/O Late Abdhul Rashid Sab , Nazeem pasha S/o Late Abdhul Rashid Sab - Bho.Pa
3	121	Private	Dry/NAK	0.145803	Puttatayamma W/O Eranna, Lingamma W/O K. Kariyanna, M Srinivasamurthy S/O Mahalingappa, M Srinivasamurthy S/O Mahalingappa-Bho.Pa
4	122	Common (Government/ Private)	Dry	0.123764	Govt. Karabu, G.S Ramachandraswamy S/O Gurushivaramanna, G.S Shashidhara S/O Gurushivaramanna, G.S Ragavendra S/O Gurushivaramanna, Ankitha.C D/O Late G.K Chowdaiah
5	127	Private	Dry	0.0961115	Hanumantharayappa S/O Kariyappa, Lakshmaiah S/O Kariyappa
6	128	Private	Dry	0.111287	Veerabhadraiah, G.C. Rangaswamyaiah, Ramanna S/O Channappa, Devarajamma W/O Ramachandra
7	129/1	Private	Dry	0.012052	Devaraju S/O Honneshappa
8	129/2	Private	Dry	0.024618	G.H.Rajanna S/O Honneshappa
9	129/3	Private	Dry	0.0252925	Ashoka S/O Honneshappa
10	131/1	Private	Dry	0.0256116	Krishnappa S/O Chikkakariyanna, G.H Ranganatha S/O Honneshappa
11	131/2	Private	Dry	0.0237199	Devaraju S/O M Kariyanna
12	131/3	Private	Dry	0.0218281	G.H Ranganatha S/O Honneshappa
13	131/4	Private	Dry	0.0212601	Devaraju S/O M Kariyanna, Kariyanna S/O M Kariyanna
14	132/1	Private	Dry	0.0720832	Ranganatha S/O ChikkaKariyappa
15	132/2	Private	Dry	0.0374141	Kariyanna S/O M Kariyanna,
16	132/3	Private	Dry	0.0004922	Krishnappa S/O ChikkaKariyanna,
17	133/2	Private	Dry	0.0437644	Shivanna S/O Chikkanna, Kariyamma W/O Shivanna, Chikkanna S/O Chikkanna, Bhagyamma W/O Chikkanna
18	133/6	Private	Dry	0.0859945	Nagaraju C S/O Poojar Chikkanna Chandrasekhar C S/O Poojar Chikkanna Ishwar C G S/O Poojar Chikkanna Chikkamani W/O Chikkanna
19	135/1	Private	Wet/Dry	0.0480557	Joganna S/O Chikkana Eranna S/O Poojar Chikkanna
20	135/2	Private	Dry	0.030351	Shivashnkara S/O Eranna
21	135/3	Private	Dry	0.0328802	Chikkanna S/O Eranna
22	136/2	Private	Dry	0.161872	Renukamma S/O Shivanna
23	136/5	Private	Dry	0.0429972	Pandhuranganna S/O Late Doddirappa
24	137	Common (Government/ Private)	Dry/Wet	0.3009807	Govt Beelu, Ranganna S/O Sanna Muddanna, G.P Dommichikkanna S/O Sanna Pathannna Kenchappa S/o Bandappa G.R. Srirangappa S/o Ranganna Sakamma W/o Ariganna G. P. Eranna S/o Sunnapatanna Javaningappa S/o Late Karianna Siddalingappa S/o Late Karianna BK Nagaraju S/o Late Karianna, Karianna S/o Javananna
VILLAGE: GULIGENAHALLI					
25	42/11	Private	Dry	0.040468	Pramod. G.N S/O Nagaraju G.N
26	42/8	Private	Dry	0.167986	Lakshmamma W/O Late kariyanna
27	43/1A	Private	Dry	0.0416599	Siddagangamma W/O Late G.P. Mallesh
28	43/1B2	Private	Dry	0.0075877	P. Eeranna S/O Pu Eeranna, Executive Engineer PRED, Sub Division Madhugiri
29	44/1	Private	Dry	0.080936	Sidddagangamma W/O Late G.P. Mallesh
30	44/4	Private	Dry	0.0025292	Obalappa S/O Eerappa
31	48/1	Private	Dry	0.091053	R. Srirangappa S/O Late Pro. Rangappa
32	48/3	Private	Dry	0.0581727	Shreedhara. K S/O Late R. Kariyanna
33	48/4	Private	Dry	0.0319712	Ratna D/O Mohan
34	48/5	Private	Dry	0.0328802	Shreedhara. K S/O Late R. Kariyanna
35	48/6	Private	Dry	0.0657605	Nagaraju K S/O Late R Kariyanna
36	48/7	Private	Dry	0.0366841	Chaya. K.L D/O Late R Kariyanna
37	50/1	Private	Dry	0.0682897	Jayamma W/O Thimmanna, Eeramma W/O Chikkanna
38	50/2	Private	Dry	0.028934	Kamalamma W/O Late Pathalingappa
39	50/3A	Private	Dry	0.0784067	G.N. Ramesh S/O Narayanappa, Ranganna S/O Kariyanna, Parvathamma W/O Late Ranganna, Ranganna S/O Gejjappa, Pathanna S/O Eeranna, Chikkanna S/O Gejjjappa, Chikkamma W/O Ranganna
40	50/4	Private	Dry	0.0164401	R. Srirangappa uraf Srirangappa S/O Late Rangappa
41	51	Private	Dry	0.05635	Kariyanna s/o Obalanarasimhayya Srirangamma D/o G.H. Narasimhayya Lakshmamma D/o Late Mariyanna, Rajamma D/o Mariyanna, G. M. Narasimhamurthy s/o Late Mariyanna Nataraju M s/o Late Mariyanna Ranganathappa (13X9 yards) bin Doddobalanna Karianna s/o Allappa, Jayamma s/o Late Doddahonnappa, Kariyanna Srirangamma s/o GH Narasimhaiah Kumuda w/o Raghavendra Prasad K Puttamma w/o G.P. Nagaraju Sannamuddappa s/o Muddappa G. P. Eranna s/o Late Sanna Patanna Thimmakka G P Eranna, Kariamma w/o GP Eranna G. P. Shivanna s/o Late Sanna Pathanna, Chikkatayamma w/o Govindappa Hemalatha.N w/o S P Kumar NR Chetana w/o Ranganatha SR
42	53/1	Private	Dry	0.0075877	G.R Rangaraju S/O D. Ranganathappa, G.R. Nagaghushana S/O D. Ranganathappa, G.R. Manjunatha S/O D. Ranganathappa
43	53/2	Private	Dry	0.0025292	Nagaraju S/O Rangappa
44	53/3	Private	Dry	0.0025292	Ranganathappa S/O Rangappa
45	54/2	Private	Wet/Dry	0.0227632	N. Nagaraju S/O Narayanappa Executive Engineer PRED, Sub Division Madhugiri
46	54/3	Private	Dry	0.0025292	Kamalamma W/O Rajanna
47	54/4	Private	Dry	0.0014663	Honneshappa S/O Late Shivaramanna
48	54/6	Private	Dry	0.0032189	Shivananda S/O Chikkanna
49	54/7	Private	Dry	0.001738	Honneshappa S/O Late Shivaramanna, Ramachandrappa S/O Kariyanna, Shivananda S/O Chikkanna, Jayamma W/O Late Dodda Honnappa
50	54/8	Private	Dry	0.0046333	Ramachandrappa S/O Kariyanna
51	56/10	Private	Wet	0.0091034	C. Venkatachalapathi S/O Chikka Venkatesh
52	56/11	Private	Dry	0.0133331	N. Narasimayya S/O Late Narasappa
53	56/4	Private	Dry	0.0098475	D. Ranganath S/O Dasanna, Ranganathappa S/O Rangappa, Nagaraju S/O Rangappa, B.M. Lingachaar S/O Mylaarachaar
54	56/9	Private	Wet	0.0209243	R. Pramila D/O Rangappa
55	57/1A2	Common (Government/ Private)	Dry	0.0076015	Government
56	57/1B	Common (Government/ Private)	Dry	0.0079385	Acquisition Kenchappa S/O Doddabandegowda
57	57/1C	Common (Government/ Private)	Dry	0.0075291	Government
58	57/2C	Private	Dry	0.011684	Siddamma W/O Ranganna Thahashildaar, Sira Taluk, Governor of Karnataka
59	62/1	Private	Dry	0.0429972	Y.S. Rangaswamy S/O Late Haalina Subbanna
60	62/2	Private	Dry	0.0306854	Raghunatha S/O Puttanaganna
61	62/3	Private	Dry	0.0599438	Chandranna S/O Puttanaganna
62	62/5	Private	Dry	0.0379387	Y.S. Rangaswamy S/O Late Haalina Subbanna
63	62/6	Private	Dry/NAK	0.0252925	S.P. Abdul Ajeem S/O S.P. Rasheed Saab, S.P. Abdul Ajeem S/O S.P. Rasheed Saam Bho.Pa
64	63	Private	Dry	0.576669	G.K. Nagalingappa S/O Kenchappa
65	64/1A	Private	Dry	0.0075877	Rajanna S/O Late Kenchappa, Basavaraju S/O Late Kenchappa, Jayaramappa S/O Late Kenchappa
66	64/3A1	Private	Dry	0.0042366	Shrirangappa, Naganna, Nagaraju, Mallamma W/O Shivashankar, Parvathamma W/O subbanna, Naganna
67	64/3B	Private	Dry	0.0102293	G.K.Nagalakshmamma W/O D.Ramachandrappa
68	64/4B	Government	Dry	0.0278217	Headmaster of Government High School, Guligenahalli
69	67	Private	Dry/NAK	0.0396842	Puttiramma w/o Shivaramaiah Ranganna s/o Sanna Muddanna. G K Ranganatha s/o Karianna K.S.Mahadevappa (20X25) s/o Chikkasanjeevappa,, Thimmanna (20X25) s/o Maranna,, Thimmarajamma (20X25) D/o Narasappa, K.S.Mahadevappa (20x25) s/o Chikkasanjeevappa Nagaraju s/o Karianna (Boo.pa), Nagaraju s/o Karianna (67/1, 67/2, 67/4, 67/5, 67/7)
70	68	Government	Kharabu	0.0192016	Government grant for the construction of the Government Pre- University College building in Guligenahalli - been reserved for the Principal of the Government Pre- University College in Guligenahalli. The establishment of a pre- metric boys hostel for the backward classes in Guligenahalli village - reserved for the Department of Welfare of Backward Classes
VILLAGE: NYAYAGERE					
71	15/1	Private	Dry	0.0556435	G.C.Chandrashekar S/O Chikkamuddappa
72	15/10	Private	Dry	0.0188646	N Shivaramaiah S/O Doddanaganna
73	15/11	Private	Dry	0.0177047	N Shivaramaiah S/O Naganna
74	15/14	Private	Dry	0.0075877	Ranganathappa S/O Late Ranganna
75	15/15	Private	Dry	0.0075877	Bhommakka W/O Late Doddanagappa
76	15/16	Private	Dry	0.0075877	Kannamma W/O Late Naganna, Nagaraju S/O Nagannaa Muddamma D/O Late Naganna, Jayalakshmamma D/O Late Naganna
77	15/17	Private	Dry	0.0075877	Chikkakariyappa S/O Subbanna
78	15/18	Private	Dry	0.0075877	Narayanappa S/O Subbanna
79	15/19	Private	Dry	0.0156549	Bhommakka W/O Late Doddanagappa
80	15/2	Private	Dry	0.0530426	Rangamma W/O Muddappa
81	15/22	Private	Dry	0.0581727	Jeeshan Mahamad S/O allahbhakash
82	15/23	Private	Dry	0.0176077	Sannalingamma W/O Late Kalappa
83	15/24	Private	Dry	0.0758775	Ranganna S/O Ranganna
84	15/3A	Private	Dry	0.0682897	Ranganna S/O Naganna, Naganna S/O Naganna
85	15/3B	Private	Dry	0.0435436	Naganna S/O Late Kempanaganna, Mahadevamma C/O Ranganathappa, Muddaraju S/O Kempanaganna
86	15/4	Private	Dry	0.030351	R Ramanna S/O Ramanna
87	15/5	Private	Dry	0.0075877	Rangamma W/O Ramanna
88	15/6	Private	Dry/NAK	0.0466601	G.M Nagaraju S/O Late Maranna Bho.Pa
89	15/7	Private	Dry	0.0182298	Ganganna S/O Late Rangappa
90	15/8	Private	Dry	0.0447557	Neeta Ganna W/o Praveen Ganna
91	16	Private	Dry	0.5033207	Kannamma s/o Kambanda Rangappa Subbanna . s/o Late Ranganna R. Raghavendra s/o G. L. Ramanna. Rangamma w/o Chikanna Rangamma w/o Late Ranganathappa Nagaraju K.H. s/o Late Honneshappa . H. Manjunath s/o Late Hanumaiah . Devaraju C Gorava Mallaiah Ranganathappa . s/o Late Ranganna Tripurambha . w/o Manjunath H
92	70	Private	NAK/ Dry	0.196598	GK Karianna.S/o Late Kalappa Sakinabhee S/o Abdul Rasheed Saab R. Nagendra S/o Ranganna (Bhu Fa) C. Rekhanagendra w/o Nagendra R (Bho.Pa) Maruteesha H S/o Late Hanumayya Ranganathappa S/o Late Ranganna, Subbanna S/o Late Ranganna Bommakka w/o Late Doddanagappa Rangamma w/o Ramanna Netravathi Mai Ga Vasudha L D/o Lingaraju Narayanappa S/o Subbanna Narayanappa S/o Subbanna Nagaraju S/o Late Kalappa Hafiz Ullah Khan S/o Sikhander Ali Khan Munawar Ji S/o Gausab 70/1, 70/4, 70/5, 70/6, 70/8, 70/9, 70/10, 70/11, 70/12, 70/13, 70/14, 70/21, 70/22
93	71	Private	Dry	0.1163455	Sushilamma W/O Gopalaiah
94	75/2	Private	NAK	0.0834652	Y.B Kantharaju S/O Late Boranna Bho.Pa
95	75/3	Private	Dry	0.0421325	Rajanna S/O Late Boranna
96	76/1	Private	Dry	0.0151755	Jayamma W/O Rajanna
97	76/2	Private	Dry	0.0050585	J.M. Nagaraju S/O Late Maranna
98	76/3	Private	Dry	0.0278217	Sunandhamma W/O Ranganataha Y.B
VILLAGE: HALKURU					
99	101/2	Private	Dry	0.189207	Nagesh Prasad S. S/O Satyaprabhakarachaar. L
100	101/3	Private	Dry	0.121404	Lakshmikanthapp S/O Late Govindappa, Renukamma H.T W/O Late K.G. Kumar, Manjula G D/o Govindappa Geetha D/o Govindappa
101	108	Private	Dry	0.0678236	Kharabu
102	32	Private	Dry	0.2655712	Parvathappa S/O Ranganna, Hanumantharayappa S/O Mallanna, Kharabu(0.12)
103	36/14	Private	Dry	0.0050585	K.R. Meenakshi W/O M. Ramachandrappa
104	36/16	Private	Dry	0.0050585	K.R. Meenakshi W/O M. Ramachandrappa
105	36/3	Private	Dry	0.0151755	Shivanna R S/O N. Rangappa
106	36/4	Private	Dry	0.1138162	G.R. Ranganathappa S/O Rangappa
107	36/5	Private	Dry	0.0075877	B. Geetha W/O R.Ranganna
108	36/6	Private	Dry	0.0100648	H. Ramayya S/O Hanumanthappa
109	36/7	Private	Dry	0.01071	M Govindaraju S/o Marappa
110	36/8	Private	Dry	0.0024357	Jayamma W/o Chowdappa
111	37/1	Private	Dry	0.671226	T.V.Sudha W/o V. Shivaram
112	37/2	Private	Dry	0.0885237	H.K. Shamanna S/o H.R. Krishnappa, H.K. Ramachandrappa S/o H.R. Krishnappa, H.R. Satyanarayana S/o H.R. Krishnappa, Subba Lakshmamma W/o H. Rajanna
113	37/4	Private	Dry	0.779009	Y.S. Gayathri W/o T.V. Mallesh
114	38/9	Private	Dry	0.00266	Govindappa S/O Late Ramayya, Bhudevamma W/O Govindappa
115	40/2	Private	Dry	0.0290536	Rohith B.R. S/O Late Ramakrishnappa H
116	40/3	Private	Dry	0.0556435	Thimmakka wife of Late Bommanna
117	41/1F1	Private	Dry	0.0331913	Chikkanna S/O Late Muddanna, Yashodamma W/O Late Nagaraju, Shankarappa S/O Late Muddanna, Shivanna S/O Late Muddanna
118	41/1F2	Private	Dry	0.0997659	M.N. Shivakumar S/O M. Nanjappa
VILLAGE: HALKURU KAVAL					
119	49	Common (Government/ Private)	Wet	1.958	ST Prabhakar S/O Thimmachar R. Pathimabee, Executive Officer Taluk Panchayat Sira, Govt. for the purpose of Shelter Scheme (10.19)
VILLAGE: GUMMANAHALLI					
120	127/1	Private	Dry	0.9889367	Doddayarappa S/O Dho.Thimmaiah, D.Thimmanna, G. Yaranna
121	127/2	Private	Dry	0.1871645	Rangamma D/O Kariyanna
122	128	Private	Dry	0.6854267	Mariyanna S/O Kadurappa
123	133	Private	Wet	0.525888	Eeranna S/O Sathigappa
124	39/1	Private	Garden	0.0023104	Eeranna S/O Sathigappa
125	39/3	Private	Garden	0.0278217	Rangappa S/O kadurappa
126	45/2A	Private	Dry	0.0227632	Ranganna S/O Chikkathimmanna
127	45/2B	Private	Wet	0.141638	Rangappa S/O Late G. Nagappa
128	45/3	Private	Wet/ Garden	0.260546	Rangappa S/O Late G. Nagappa
129	46/1	Private	Dry	0.273159	Dasappa S/O Late Eeranna
130	47/1A1	Private	Dry	0.101631	G. Thimmaiah S/O Dasappa Thimmanna S/O Ranganna Dasappa S/O Chikkadasappa
131	47/1A2	Private	Dry	0.5387302	Rangamma W/O Eeramariyappa, Kariyamma W/O Late E Eeranna, Chikkamarakka W/O Doddanna
132	47/1B	Private	Dry	0.268262	Dodakka W/O Dyavarappa Chittamma W/O Dyavarappa Yarrapa
133	48/1A	Private	Garden	0.819232	Dayananda S/O Durgayya, Krishnarao S/O K.N. Devarao, Rajanna S/O Hanumanna
134	48/3	Private	Garden	0.0050585	Ranganna S/O Hendore Giriyanna
135	48/4	Private	Garden	0.1087577	Thayamma W/O Late Kadurappa
136	48/9	Private	Garden	0.040468	Thayamma W/O Late Kadurappa
137	50	Government	Sendivana	0.6424295	Sendivana Public smashana, Gummanahalli Village
138	54/1A	Private	Dry	0.177537	Rangamma W/O Late Kadurappa

continued to next page

Will protect state's interests, says DKS

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Questioned about neighbouring Maharashtra possibly diverting water from River Bhima in Karnataka to River Seena, DCM D K Shivakumar assured the House on Thursday that the state's interests will be protected should a dispute emerge over the issue.

Replying to a query by BJP MLC Talwar Sabanna, who alleged that waters were being diverted using a tunnel, Shivakumar said that he would have a report drafted on the issue. The Deputy CM, who is also Minister for Water Resources, sought more information on the charges levelled by Sabanna against Maharashtra.

Reddy blames previous govt for RTCs' crisis

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy blamed the previous BJP government for the financial burden faced by state-run road transport corporations, citing large pending dues and salary arrears inherited by the Congress govt in 2023.

Replying to the issue raised by BJP's Bharathi Shetty in the Council on frequent bus breakdowns, poor maintenance and delay in reimbursement of funds spent on Shakti scheme, Reddy said the BJP government left unpaid dues of nearly Rs 4,000 crore towards provident fund, gratuity, contractor bills and other liabilities. He said salary arrears of RTC staff for 37 months, amounting to about Rs 1,700 crore, were also pending when the Congress came to power.

The minister said the present govt had taken corrective steps by inducting 5,000 new buses and recruiting 9,000 staff, besides appointing another 1,000 employees on compassionate grounds.

He said the government had also provided financial support of Rs 2,000 crore as loan to clear pending bills.

Consider plea of Pak woman for citizenship: HC

'Submit new application with details, withdraw pending ones'

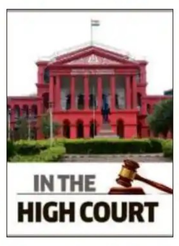
AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS

The high court has directed the Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) and the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) to consider the fresh application to be filed by a Pakistani woman seeking Indian citizenship.

It directed the authorities to pass necessary orders on the application before expiry of the long-term visa issued to her.

The petitioner, Nighat Yasmeen, had married Mohammed Younus of Shivajinagar in Bengaluru in April 2009 and the couple have two children.

She had submitted applications seeking Indian citizenship and approached the high court, contending that her applications had not been considered.



The petitioner said since their children were Indian citizens, her case for grant of citizenship should be considered favourably. It was stated that in view of the Indo-Pak conflict, MoHA had issued an order on April 24, 2025, deciding to suspend all existing visas.

The government advocate submitted that the petitioner's application could not be processed as there were four applications for citizenship, while the verification report is required to be uploaded on only one application.

H Shanthi Bhushan, deputy solicitor general of India representing the union government, said if the state authorities process the application, the same would be considered in accordance with law.

The court noted though the April 25, 2025, order indicates that visa services to Pakistan nationals will be suspended with immediate effect, it was further made clear that the order will not apply to long-term visas (FTVs), diplomatic and official visas issued to Pakistani nationals.

On April 28, another order was issued, wherein it was made clear that though an exemption had been given for long term visa holders from revocation of visas, Pakistani nationals would be required to apply afresh for a long-term visa on e-FRRO portal giving various details.

In the event the application not being filed by July 10, 2025, the long-term visa would stand cancelled, it said.

The court said the petitioner had submitted application on e-FRRO portal on May 16, 2025, and that her application for long-term visa had been considered and recommended for extension till April 6, 2026.

"If that be so, only the formality for issuance of long-term visa is pending. The said long-term visa issued to petitioner is valid till 6.04.2026, and the petitioner cannot be deported, nor any coercive steps can be taken against the petitioner insofar as expiry of long-term visa is concerned," Justice Suraj Govindaraj said.

It said the petitioner could submit only one single fresh application enclosing all details after withdrawing all pending applications, filed since 2021. The court directed authorities to consider fresh application to be filed by the petitioner and process it within two weeks.

SESSION SNIPPETS

Building STPs will take time, says Khandre

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Twelve rivers in state are being polluted by domestic and industrial sewage, Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre told the Assembly.

Arkavathy, Lakshmanateertha, Tungabhadra, Bhadra, Tunga, Cauvery, Kabini, Kagina, Krishna, Shimsha, Bhima and Netravati face contamination.

"There are 30 local bodies where the rivers flow. A total of 814 MLD of sewage is generated. We have treatment plants to handle only 614 MLD. Eleven local bodies face criminal cases for not setting up STPs," Khandre said, replying to Melkote MLA Darshan Puttannaiah.

"The BWSSB, KUWSDB and KUIDFC are setting up 19 STPs of 248 MLD capacity. But this will take some time," he said.

Minister opposes using teachers for census

BELAGAVI, DHNS: School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa said he would oppose deployment of teachers for upcoming census work.

"I had opposed the use of teachers for (social & educational) survey. Personally, I'm against sending teachers to census work. But then, there's nobody else to do it," he said, replying to BJP's Harish Poonja's question on using teachers for non-academic work.

There is a shortage of 57,724 teachers. Madhu said the government had hired 51,000 guest teachers by giving them a hike of Rs 2,000.

1	2	3	4	5	6
139	54/1B	Private	Dry	0.4122677	Thimmanna S/O Late Thimmanna Uruf Thimmayya, Chikkanna S/O Late Thimmanna uruf Thimmayya
140	54/2	Private	Dry	0.1669305	Gangadhara S/O Late Shivalingappa, Raghavendra S/O Late Shivalingappa, Sannaningappa S/O Late Linganna, MalleshappaS/O Late Linganna, Rajanna S/O Late Linganna
141	54/3	Private	Dry	0.240459	Kariyamma W/O Late Mahalingaiah
142	54/5	Private	Dry	0.1669305	Bhuthanna S/O Late Phakirappa
143	77/19	Private	Dry	0.8220062	Sannirappa S/O Mandirappa
144	77/20	Private	Dry	0.246307	Humera. B.M W/O Hannan Ahamad
145	77/6	Private	Dry	0.0362158	Sanniramma w/o Ranganna
146	79	Government (Government/ lake land)	Lake	0.8523572	Erapurada kere
VILLAGE: EMMERAHALLI					
147	32/4	Private	Dry	0.0542673	Eramma W/O Siddanna
148	32/5	Private	Dry	0.126463	Govindaraju Y D S/O Doddulli Thimmaiah
149	32/7	Private	Dry	0.12646	Suresh D S/O Doddulli Thimmaiah
150	32/8	Private	Dry	0.0672347	Puttaraju D S/O Doddulli Thimmaiah
151	6/1	Private	Dry	0.123366	Sannathimmanna S/O Kadappa, Govindappa S/O Kadappa, The President of India has inaugurated National Highway No. 48 (Old No. 4) through the Ministry of Road Transport and National Highways.
152	6/14	Private	Dry/ Garden	0.354095	Eramma W/O Siddanna Govindappa alias Govindaraju S S/O Siddanna
153	6/21	Private	Dry	0.0209817	Siddanna D S/O Doddulli Thimmaiah
154	6/3	Private	Dry	0.070819	S Thimmanna /O Doddulli Thimmaiah
155	6/4	Private	Dry	0.0863558	Eramma W/O Siddanna Govindappa alias Govindaraju S S/O Siddanna
156	6/5	Private	Dry	0.0908684	Doddayarappa S/O Dho.Thimmaiah, D.Thimmanna, G. Yaranna
157	6/6	Private	Dry/ Garden	0.10117	Doddeeramma W/O Le Thimmanna Govindappa Sannachitramma W/O Late Siddanna Thimmayya S/O Le Govindappa Sharadhamma w/o govindappa Yaranna S/O Le Govindappa Thimmakka S/O Le Govindappa Kadappa Bin S/O. Govindappa Eeramma W/O Late Yarranna Nagamma W/O Late Kadappa
158	6/7	Private	Dry	0.161872	Govindaraju Y D S/O Doddulli Thimmaiah
159	6/8	Private	Dry	0.0912192	Doddayarappa S/O Dho.Thimmaiah, D.Thimmanna, G. Yaranna
VILLAGE: TEGGAHALLI					
160	1/1	Private	Dry	0.6753097	Nagamma W/O Late Sannirappa
161	1/2	Private	Dry	0.192223	Vanajakshamma W/O Kariyanna
162	1/3	Private	NAK	0.0556435	Madhavi Uraf Bindumadhavi D/O G. Mohan Raju Bho.Pa
163	1/4	Private	Dry	0.4072092	Mahalingappa S/O Late Eeranna
164	1/5	Private	Dry	0.1770475	Kariyanna S/O Late Eeranna
165	11	Private	Dry/ Garden	0.627254	P. Sunilkumar S/O Prem
166	7/2	Private	Dry	0.0364136	Bhoswadina Chikkanna S/o Satthigappa, Doddiranna S/O Kaduranna uruf kadhurappa Nagamma W/o Sanneerappa, Gollarhatti houses
167	7/3A1	Private	Dry	0.0379387	Ranganna S/O Chikkathimaiah Land acquisition for Janata Mane
168	7/3A2	Private	Dry	0.0379387	S.L. Chandrika S/O J.R. Lakshmanappa
169	7/4	Private	Dry	0.0480557	Eeramariyanna S/O Kadurappa
170	8	Common (Government/ Private)	Dry	1.538	Public Cemetery Thaggihalli Dasanna S/O Eeranna Hotti Eeranna S/O Ranganna N. Prakash S/O Narasimhaiah, Sharadamma D/O Chikkahanumayya, Dasanna S/O Chikkanna, Sannirappa S/O Late Eeranna, Kaduranna S/O Late Sattigappa, Chikkanna S/O Late Sattigappa, Tippanahalli Ranganna S/O Ranganna, Dasanna S/O Chikkanna, Eeranna S/O Mudde Eeranna S. Eeragouda S/O Sanniregouda, Bheemanna S/O Kondabovi, Sarojamma W/O Late G. Thimmayya, Jayananna S/O Late G. Thimmayya, Madhusoodana S/O Late G. Thimmayya, Purushottama S/O Late G. Thimmayya, For the purpose of the Ashraya scheme, Executive Officer Taluk Panchayat Sira Government Shendi Kharab (32-30) Government Shendi Kharab
171	9/1	Private	Dry	0.73258	Pandappa S/O Late Kariyanna, Nagarajappa S/O Late Kariyanna, K.Shivanna S/O Late Kariyanna, Ranganatha S/O Late Kariyanna
172	9/2	Private	Dry	0.2579835	Dasanna S/O Late chikkanna
173	9/3	Private	Dry	0.2099277	Ranganna S/O Late Chikkanna
174	village	Private	Dry	0.060702	Village (Gramatana)
TALUK: MADHUGIRI					
VILLAGE: LAKSHMIPURA (VENKATAPURA)					
175	5	Common (Government/ Private)	Dry	0.141638	Grama Panchayat
176	6/1	Private	Garden	0.061724	Annapurnamma W/O Veerabhadraiah, D.V. Chandrashekaraiah S/O Late Veerabhadraiah
177	7/1	Private	Dry	0.0671037	Siddaiah S/O Chikkasiddaiah, Rangappa S/O Doddirappa Bandaveerappa
178	7/2	Private	Dry	0.020234	Kambadarangappa, G. Govindappa S/o Gopalanna
179	7/4	Private	Dry	0.030351	G. Govindappa S/O Gopalanna, Kambadarangappa S/O Gopalamma
180	8/2	Private	Wet	0.0379387	Srinivasa, Manjunatha, Viswanataha , Honneshappa, Thimmakka W/O D.T. Thimmappa
181	8/5	Private	Dry/Wet	0.0379387	Shashikumar L.N S/O Nagaraju
VILLAGE: DODDERI					
182	118/1	Private	Wet	0.0859945	Puttarangappa S/O Rangappa
183	120/1	Private	Wet	0.0657605	Manukumar L.S/O Lingappa L.C
184	120/2	Private	Wet	0.0517351	Shivalingappa V S/O Veeranna
185	123/2	Private	Dry	0.0675222	Gopamma W/O K. kanimanna
186	124/1	Private	Garden	0.0207149	Ramanna S/O kodappa
187	124/2	Private	Garden	0.0331878	K. Basavaraju S/O Late Kodappa
188	139/4A	Private	Dry/ Wet	0.0182769	Puttanagappa S/O Rangappa
189	139/4B	Private	Dry /Wet	0.017308	S. Parameshwarappa S/O Late Siddalingappa G.K, Nagaraju S/O Late Kempanaganna, Veeranagappa S/O Late Kempanaganna, G. Pandurangappa S/O Late Kempanaganna, K. Shrirangappa S/O Late Kempanaganna
190	139/4C1	Private	Wet	0.0162185	S. Parameshwarappa S/O Late Siddalingappa G.K, Nagaraju S/O Late Kempanaganna, Veeranagappa S/O Late Kempanaganna, G. Pandurangappa S/O Late Kempanaganna, K. Shrirangappa S/O Late Kempanaganna
191	139/4C2	Private	Wet	0.0062537	Rajamma W/O Late Veerakyathappa
192	140/4	Private	Garden	0.0075877	G.N. Nagarajappa S/O Late Naganna, Chigadasanna S/O Dasappa, Doddanna S/O Kariyanna
193	141	Private	Dry/ Wet	0.0679547	S. Parameshwarappa S/O Late Siddalingappa
194	142/1	Government	Dry/Wet/ Garden	0.0758775	Puttamma W/O R. Ramesh
195	142/2	Private	Dry	0.020234	Poornima Jayashankar W/O Jayashankar R
196	143	Private	Dry	0.0842801	Government (Gramatana)
197	144/5B	Government	Govt	0.0126462	Government (Gramatana)
198	144/9A	Government	Govt	0.0050585	Government (Gramatana)
199	144/9B	Government	Govt	0.0131112	Government (Gramatana)
VILLAGE: BADAVANAHALLI					
200	168/1	Private	Dry	0.1795767	Ranganath B S/O B.P. Banappa N A Kharab
201	40/1A	Private	Kharab	0.0075877	N A Kharab
202	40/1B	Private	Kharab	0.0379387	N A Kharab
203	40/3B	Private	Kharab/ NAK	0.0169982	N A Kharab
204	40/4B	Private	Kharab/ NAK	0.020923	N A Kharab
205	40/5B	Private	Kharab/ NAK	0.0229494	N A Kharab
206	40/6	Private	Dry	0.0322334	Shivaraju S/O Nanjanna
207	41/1A4	Government	Kharab	0.0328802	Krishnakumar S/O Late lakshmana
208	41/2	Private	Dry	0.045526	B.M. Ranganathappa S/O Muddurangadasappa
209	41/3A3	Private	Dry	0.010117	S. Manju S/O D. sanjeevaiah
210	41/3B	Private	Kharab	0.0151755	N A Kharab
211	44/2	Private	Dry/Wet	0.0657605	Ranganath B N S/O Late Nagaraju B R
212	45	Private	NAK/ Dry	0.0885237	Jayamma w/o Lakshman Puttamma w/o Late Rangaiah Srinivas HT. s/o Thimmanna b G.R. Kishore s/o G.S. Ranganatha G.R. Raghavendra s/o G.S. Ranganatha Rangalakshmamma. w/o Chikkahanumayya Mohan M.S s/o Shankarappa Shivkumar.L s/o Lakshman
213	46	Private	NAK	0.159159	BV Panduranga bin BG Venkataramaiah Shetty (Bhoo Pa)
214	47	Common (Government/ lake land)	Lake	0.0067793	Government kere
215	51	Government	Dry	0.020234	Government Sandivan Police reserve field and police residence construction purpose for Shri Shani Devaru.
216	55	Government	Govt Pada	0.208225	Government Phada
217	56	Common (Government/ Private)	Dry	0.748658	For government cows, Muppathu R. Ranganath S/O Rangappa, R., Ranganath S/O Late Rangappa, N., Rajasekhara S/O M. Nagaraju, Suma Ramesh D/O Late M. Nagaraju, G. Lakshmi W/O R. Somashekar, Puttamma W/O Late B. Puttalingaiah, Nagaraju B L S/O Lakshmiah, has reserved land allocation for those without land in the jurisdiction of the Badavanahalli Gram Panchayat under the housing scheme, Lakshmamma W/O Late Sannarangappa, U. Sannamaarappa.
VILLAGE: BADAVANAHALLI AMRUTMAHAL KAVL					
218	186	Private	Dry	0.0440829	Gramthana
219	189	Private	Dry	0.169722	D.L. Kattappa S/O Linganayaka
220	190	Private	Dry	0.0608212	D.L. Kattappa S/O Linganayaka
221	207	Private	Dry	0.0126462	Hanumanthaiyya S/O Agalikaduraya , Honnamma W/o Rangappa
222	208	Private	Dry	0.1062285	Karengappa S/O Hallappa, Rangamma W/O Hanumanthaiyya
VILLAGE: KONNAHALLI					
223	10	Private	Dry	0.101875	K. Vishwanath S/o K. Karegowda Obakka S/o Late Hanumanna, Rangamma S/o Late Hanumanna, Hanumantharayappa S/o Late Hanumanna, Eranna S/o Late Hanumanna, Puttamma S/o Late Hanumanna, Jayamma S/o Late Hanumanna Ramanna S/o Late Hanumanna, Ratnamma S/o Late Hanumanna, obanayaka S/o Chikkobanayaka, Badaobanayaka S/o Chikkobanayaka, Bhimanna S/o Chikkobanayaka, Ramanna S/o Chikkobanayaka Hanumantarayappa S/o Papanayaka, Nagaratna D/o Late Eranna, Jayalakshmi D/o Late Eranna, R Malathi W/o Late E Gopalakrishna, Gayatri B G W/O Late Govind Raj E Narasimharaju S/o Late Rangappa, Yashodamma W/o Late Gangadharaiah, Tippeiraiah S/o Chikkiraiah, Hanumantaraju S/o Late Narasimhaiah Puttamma W/o Maradi Rangaiah K. Kamanna S/o Kamanna, Obanayaka Iranna Bada Obanayaka Ramanayaka Hanumanayaka Hanumantarayappa S/o Papanayaka , Village Settlement , Chikkobanayaka, Obanayaka, Director of Publication Inspector
224	10/4B1	Private	Dry	0.0025292	K. Karegowda S/O Karegowda
225	104	Private	Wet/Dry	0.110388	K Chikrangappa S/O Karianna, K Ramakrishna S/O Karianna
226	110	Private	Wet	0.0239304	K. Ranganatha S/O K. Karegowda
227	19	Common (Government/ Private)	Dry	0.0637675	Bommanayka S/O Kavel Nayka, K.B. Bommanna S/O Kari Kaval Nayaka, Kamakka W/O Dasanayka, Kariappa S/O Rangappa
228	20/1	Private	Dry	0.0252925	Yogesh .K. S/O Karianna Uruf Kariappa. K. Ananda S/O Karianna Uruf Kariappa
229	21/1	Private	Dry	0.1568135	Muddarangamma W/O Late KB Bommalingappa, DoddaObalayya S/O Linganayaka
230	22/1	Private	Dry	0.0379387	Lakshmamma W/O Late Mallanna
231	22/2	Private	Dry	0.0632312	Obakka D/O Late Hanumanna, Rangamma S/O Late Hanumanna, Hanumantharayappa S/O Late Hanumanna, Eranna S/O Late Hanumanna, Puttamma D/O Late Hanumanna, Jayamma D/O Late Hanumanna, Ramanna S/O Late Hanumanna, Rathnamma D/O Late Hanumanna, Papanayaka, Siddamma W/O Lete Obanayaka, Iranna S/O Chikkobanayaka, Badobanayaka S/O Chikkobanayaka, Bhimanna S/O Chikkobanayaka, Ramanna S/O Chikkobanayaka
232	22/3	Private	Dry	0.0354095	K.B Bommalingappa S/O Bommanayaka, Dodda Obalaya S/O Linganayaka, Mohammad Shamiullah Saab, Haji Sabbar Hussain Saab
233	22/4A1	Private	Dry	0.0190774	Dodda Obalaiah S/O Late Linganayaka, K.N. Gangadharaiah S/O Late Linganayaka,
234	22/4A2	Private	Dry	0.0227632	Kamanna S/O Mallanna
235	55	Government	Kharab	0.007199	Gundutopu
236	56/1A	Private	Garden	0.0050585	Honnamma W/o Muddanayaka
237	75/2	Private	Dry/ Garden	0.0151755	Puttathayamma W/oLate Kariyanna, Puttamma W/O Late Rangappa, Govindappa S/O Late Govindappa, Lakshmamma W/O Late Ramanna, Shantamma D/O Late Govindappa, Puttamma W/O Late Rangappa
238	75/5	Private	Garden	0.00782	Mallanna S/O Late Dadappa
239	75/6	Private	Garden	0.0054257	Dadaraju S/O Late Putta Kamanna
240	75/7	Private	Garden	0.0082398	Bommanna S/O Late Dadappa
241	79	Private	Dry	0.140554	Sitarama D H S/OHanumanthaiah
242	9/4	Private	Dry/Wet	0.002875	Nagarajappa S/O Lehanumanthaiyya Uruf Hanumanthappa, Chandranna S/O Lehanumanthaiyya Uruf Hanumanthappa
VILLAGE: KONAPANAYAKANAHALLI					
243	18/1	Private	Dry	0.0834652	Ameer sab S/o Buden sab, Thimmakka W/O M Ravi
244	18/2A	Private	Dry	0.030351	Jayakka W/O Thimmanna B. Venkatappa S/O Venkatappa Venkataravana S/O Venkatappa Rangamma W/O Mandalappa
245	18/2B	Private	NAK	0.035409	Mandalappa S/O Venkatappa N A Kharab
246	18/4	Private	Dry	0.0480557	P G Yogeswarappa S/O P N Gangappa
247	23	Private	Garden	0.0896034	Narayanappa S/O Le na Govindappa Thimmanna S/O Le na Govindappa Venkatachalappa S/O Le na Govindappa
248	24/1	Private	Dry	0.0125063	Shivakumar S/O late. K.M Kannappa Shailakumari D/O late.. K.M Kannappa Annapurnamma D/O late. K.M Kannappa Puspshalatha D/O late. K.M Kannappa
249	25	Private	Dry	0.161872	C. Sheelaramesh W/O C. Ramesh
250	26/1	Private	Wet	0.070819	K.R Shivakumar S/O Rajashekharayya
251	27/1	Private	Garden	0.0278217	K Malliah S/o Kappanna
252	27/2	Private	Garden	0.0379387	Sivakumar S/O late.K.M Kannappa Shailakumari D/O late.K.M Kannappa, Annapurnamma D/O late.K.M Kannappa, Puspshalatha D/O late. K.M Kannappa
253	28	Private	Garden	0.0379387	Chikkabasappa S/O late Puttanna
			Total	29.6364645	

[F. No. CNH/TA-3/AE-4/NH-69/3(a) 2024-25/3A/3D]
SHAIKH AMINKHAN, Director

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SHANTI signals big nuclear pivot

The Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Bill, 2025, passed by parliament, overhauls the country's nuclear policy, facilitates participation of private players, and provides for foreign funding in the nuclear sector. It repeals the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010, which were seen as restricting the sector with its stringent regulatory provisions. Nuclear energy accounts for only 3% of the country's power output. Liberalisation of the present regime is imperative to meet the government's 2047 target of 100 GW of nuclear capacity. Climate change necessitates a substantial reduction in coal-based production. Renewable energy output has to be increased, but the production of hydroelectric, solar, and wind power has various constraints, making nuclear energy critical to this transition.

The Bill allows the government to issue licences to government entities, joint ventures, and "any other company" to undertake nuclear energy activities. Till now, only the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) was authorised to operate nuclear power facilities. While private participation is envisaged in plant delivery and parts of the supply chain, the sensitive segment of fuel cycles will be under State control. The Bill does away with the suppliers' liability provisions of the 2010 Act and provides for a graded liability structure commensurate with the generation capacity. It simplifies the legal framework to reduce transaction costs and delays in site approvals and commissioning. The Bill also seeks to encourage research by amending patent regulations.

Liberalisation is essential, but concerns over relaxed liability norms and regulation are credible

While opening up the nuclear sector to a larger set of players is in line with the long-term national vision, some of the Bill's provisions have raised apprehensions. The UPA government's landmark Indo-US nuclear agreement and the 2010 Act had envisaged the entry of the private sector, but US suppliers were wary of the stiff gate-keeping provisions, especially relating to liability, in the Indian laws. The proposed law, being pushed when trade negotiations are underway between the two countries, eases them. It caps the operator's liability for a nuclear incident at Rs 3,000 crore and limits the scope of operator recourse, or the right of the operator to recover costs and compensation from suppliers in the event of a nuclear incident. The Opposition has criticised the Bill for allowing private sector participation in the sensitive sector while limiting liability and granting statutory immunity to private players. There is also a legitimate concern over the restricted scope for judicial remedies and the absence of provisions for an independent regulator in the sector.

A city stalled in construction

For Bengaluru's road users, frustration is a daily companion. Barricades, diversions, and dug-up roads have become the defining landscape of India's Silicon Valley, turning every commute into a daily assault on time and sanity. Flyovers never seem to finish, white-topping projects paralyse neighbourhoods for years, and Metro pillars rise endlessly – the city appears trapped in perpetual construction. Take the Kanteerava Studio Junction flyover on the Outer Ring Road, which began in fits and starts. Work has resumed only now, over a decade later, and after a visiting Member of Parliament from Uttar Pradesh, stuck in a two-hour jam, publicly shamed the system. The same story plays out across the city. The Ejipura-Kendriya Sadan flyover has dragged on for over ten years. Its forest of pillars stands like a concrete graveyard of public money, mocking every claim of efficient governance.

White-topping was supposed to mean durable roads; instead, it has meant endless disruption. The upscale Indiranagar was dug up for years, and though the work is "complete" on paper, finishing touches remain elusive. Kasturinagar's residents endured two years of unrepaired roads after water pipes were laid, until sustained protests forced the civic body's hand. Now, Sanjaynagar's narrow lanes face the same fate, putting small businesses on life support. Looming over all this is the biggest nightmare yet: Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bengaluru's showcase artery, is being dug up for water pipelines for the first time in four decades; assurances that the disruption will be brief sound like a bad joke to citizens who have heard it all before. Adding to the misery is the snail's pace of Metro construction, choking different parts of the city.

Dug-up roads and missed deadlines expose a lack of coordination and a vacuum in leadership

Bengaluru had pinned its hopes on Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, once known as a go-getter. Today, as the minister in charge of Bengaluru, he presides over paralysis. The city still lacks an updated comprehensive development plan, garbage management remains broken, uncoordinated agencies perennially dig up roads, and pending projects languish without closure. Grandiose plans of tunnel roads, elevated corridors, and skydecks dominate the discourse, while the basics are ignored. Bengaluru's crisis is not one of ambition but of discipline and accountability. Projects are launched without secured finances or land clearances, and almost nothing finishes on time. A city cannot be kept in a constant state of repair without breaking its spirit. Until governance shifts from announcements to outcomes, Bengalureans will continue to pay the price – in lost hours, lost livelihoods and lost faith.

FINE PRINT

Why VB-G RAM G is reform without repair

The Bill pushes fiscal control in a rights language, sidestepping deeper questions about worker vulnerabilities

JEHOSH PAUL

The Union government's Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) Bill, 2025 (VB-G RAM G Bill, 2025) seeks to replace the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) with a rebranded and expanded framework. On paper, the promise looks generous: the statutory guarantee rises from 100 to 125 days, planning is folded into a futuristic architecture of geospatial mapping, digital dashboards and national infrastructure stacks, and the language of rights survives.

The harder question, however, is whether the Bill fixes the structural failures that have hollowed out MGNREGA in practice. On that count, the answer is uncomfortable. A close reading shows that the Bill often sidesteps well-documented problems and, in several places, codifies the very mechanisms that caused them.

One of MGNREGA's longest-running failures has been the erosion of real wages. Multiple government committees and even the Supreme Court have noted that MGNREGA wages in many states fall below the statutory minimum wages.

There was no ambiguity about what needed to be fixed. The law needed to align wages with state minimum wages or shift the indexation to CPI-Rural, as recommended by the Mahendra Dev Committee. Clause 10 of the new Bill does neither. It retains the Centre's absolute power to notify wage rates, without any statutory floor linked to minimum wages or real inflation. The programme remains an employer of last resort that offers below-market wages, rather than a wage floor that disciplines rural labour markets.

Payment delays have been the single-most corrosive feature of the MGNREGA implementation. A 2024 Parliamentary Standing Committee report traced the problem to the delayed release of funds by the Centre. The system operates like a post-paid plan: the states generate employment first and then wait for reimbursements, and when central allocations dry up mid-year, wages stop.

Experts have long proposed a revolving fund or pre-funded wallet model, where money is available before the work begins. The Bill ignores this entirely. Instead, Clause 22 entrenches a 60:40 Centre-state funding split for most states. This creates a double bottleneck, because even if the Centre releases its share on time, the workers will not be paid if a fiscally stressed state cannot release

its portion. The design introduces an additional failure point into a system already known for delays.

Technology has been introduced into MGNREGA with the promise of transparency. In practice, it has produced large-scale exclusion. Independent research by LibTech India documents millions of workers struck off rolls or denied wages due to Aadhaar mismatches, biometric failures, and mobile app outages.

The core flaw was never technology itself; it was compulsion without fallback. What workers needed was a statutory right to non-digital alternatives when the systems failed. Clause 24 of the new Bill moves in the opposite direction. It hard-codes biometric authentication, real-time digital platforms, and geospatial monitoring into law. There is no protection for workers when the fingerprints do not match or when networks fail. By elevating technology mandates to statutory status, the Bill legalises exclusion rather than correcting it.

From a right to a rationed scheme

MGNREGA was conceived as a demand-driven entitlement. In practice, demand is routinely curtailed through administrative rationing. Local officials often stop accepting work applications once informal budget thresholds set by the Centre are reached, aware that crossing these limits exposes them to wage liabilities for which funds may never be released.

Instead of correcting this, the Bill formalises it and goes further. Clauses 4 and 22 introduce 'normative allocations' and explicitly state that any expenditure beyond the norm must be borne entirely by the state, while Clause 6 authorises a statutory pause of up to 60 days during peak agricultural seasons when no works can be undertaken. Together, these provisions create powerful incentives to suppress demand. Opening additional works now risks direct fiscal liability, and at certain times of the year, the guarantee itself can be suspended by design. What was earlier an informal cap has now become a legally sanctioned one, and the guarantee shifts quietly from open-ended to budget-bounded.

Social audits were intended to be MGNREGA's accountability backbone. The report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), however, shows that social audit units were absent in several states and, where functional, they remained administratively dependent on the very departments they were tasked with auditing.

Clause 20 continues this arrangement. While the social audits are mandated, Clause 18 assigns responsibility for acting on audit findings to the Programme Officer, the very official who oversees the works and manages labour demand.

Taken together, these choices reveal the Bill's true orientation. It is drafted to solve administrative and fiscal anxieties, not worker vulnerabilities. It seeks predictable budgets, managed labour supply during peak agricultural seasons, and technology-driven oversight, while offering little to address low wages, delayed payments, or digital exclusion.

The result is not a strengthened right to work. It is a managed labour supply scheme with a rights vocabulary. If rural employment is to remain a right rather than a rationed programme, these omissions will matter more than the new name or the extra 25 days on paper.

(The writer is a lawyer and public policy consultant)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Between the balloon and the gown

I now have a heartfelt relationship with my doctor

NAJIB SHAH

"Where is the balloon?" This was no anxious child questioning his parents; it was a doctor asking his colleagues. A balloon, to the uninitiated in the case I am writing about, is a small inflatable device on a catheter, used to expand a clogged artery and place a stent. Unlike the banana, which went to the cardiologist because it wasn't 'peeling' well, I went with no apparent problem. Still, I had clearly missed picking up multiple tell-tale signs of a possible cardiac issue, which tests confirmed.

And so there I was, lying on an operating table — the artery was mine. Supine, locally anaesthetised, staring at the bland white ceiling of the operation theatre (a thought crossed my mind: would it be better if it were some vibrant colour instead?) and at the multiple screens on which my insides were visible.

Where is the balloon, indeed! I was alarmed enough to lift my head to see and join the search for the missing balloon. The nurse gently pushed my head back down. They did, of course, find the balloon. The procedure went well; the balloon opened the artery. As they say, cardiologists make great friends because they are always willing to listen to your heart. He is a friend now, so let me not poke fun at him. And yes, I will also need to go back to the good doctor.

Instead, let me tell you about the ridiculous light blue dress — dress, really — they make you wear in hospital. It is a gown with the back completely open, tied together with two strings. It is a dress that even a model walking the ramp in fashionable Paris would blush to wear. It is designed so that, when you stand, any tug to bring the two parts together exposes your derriere to the world at large.

Fortunately, the nurses are so busy — and having clearly seen all kinds of behinds — that they do not care much about yours. But it destroys what little shred of dignity you have, making you acutely conscious and eager to get back into everyday attire. I suppose that is one way to ensure you leave the crowded hospital quickly so that the next patient can be admitted.

That said, the nurses are an incredible lot — hardworking, stressed, yet always cheerful and helpful. They keep chattering away, lightening the atmosphere, relieving tension, and checking on you at very regular intervals — so what if you are sleeping! I now have a heartfelt relationship with my cardiologist, who tells me to learn to listen to my body. Doc, at my age, my body keeps telling me so many things; I only hope it does not turn me into a hypochondriac.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let's judge the healthcare system by the way it responds

Apropos 'Man dies on road...' (Dec 18), the account of a cardiac patient being turned away by multiple hospitals raises unsettling questions about the real meaning of emergency care in an urban health system. When a man with evident symptoms of a heart attack is reportedly denied admission, diagnostic tests and timely intervention, what governs decision-making in critical hours? Are institutional protocols, bed availability and liability fears allowed to outweigh clinical judgment and human urgency? If advanced facilities exist, why do they fail at the decisive moment? And who audits refusals that occur behind emergency doors?

Beyond individual hospitals, the episode compels reflection on systemic accountability. Do current regulations meaningfully deter denial of life-saving care, or do they activate only after irreversible loss? How effective are ambulance networks and referral mechanisms in practice? Above all, when responsibility is diffused across institutions, who ultimately answers to grieving families? A healthcare system must be judged not by infrastructure alone, but by how it responds when every minute counts.

K Chidanand Kumar, Bengaluru

Long game or a lack of internal democracy?

The appointment of a younger leader as the BJP's national working president may appear as a generational shift, but it also raises concerns about internal democracy within political parties. Leadership transitions decided through nomination rather than election limit wider participation and debate. While continuity ensures stability, excessive centralisation of power can discourage fresh ideas and dissent. National leadership roles demand broad experience and independent authority, not just organisational loyalty. Political parties must balance control with democratic practices to remain credible. Strengthening internal democracy is essential for sustaining public trust in the long run.

Shruthi Sudheer, Bengaluru

Stop mistreating the elderly and PWDs

I am an 85-year-old army veteran. On my return to Kempegowda International Airport from Delhi by air, I could not find my pre-booked cab at the exit where I had expected it to be. I approached the counter for assistance with IndiGo's PWD (Persons With Disabilities) services, but the staff member said he could not help because cabs are not permitted there. No wheelchair was present either. I had to walk 700 metres, crossing two roads, to find my cab, or take the Airport Taxi, which was 300 yards away. Why waste an employee with a promise to assist PWD when they can't help? As I limped across, I saw seven white police SUVs standing right at the exit and was amazed by the preferential treatment. Why are we accepting such nonsense of ill-treatment of PWDs and senior citizens?

Brig AN Suryanarayanan, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

Late CMs Anna, MGR inspire everyone, they are not individual property; none can complain against us for invoking them

Vijay, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam chief

Those who invoke history will certainly be heard by history. And they will have to accept its verdict.

Dag Hammarskjold

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

What would the Founders say?

An imagined conversation on the World Inequality Report 2026 and India today

JOHN KURIEN

Author's note: The following is a constitutional thought experiment. It asks how three central figures in the making of modern India – Mahatma Gandhi, BR Ambedkar, and Jawaharlal Nehru – might respond if they were to read the World Inequality Report 2026 and its Appendix on India today.

They sit together in silence.

The report, its cover illustrated in shades of green, lies open before them. Outside, India hums, restless and alive. Inside, three men who helped shape the nation read what has become of the Republic they once imagined.

Gandhi is the first to speak. "So", the Mahatma says quietly, "we have grown wealthy – yet remain poor."

He looks again at the income figures. "Ten per cent take well over half of all that is earned, while half the population must make do with just 15 per cent. This is not merely an imbalance. It is a moral failure."

Ambedkar adjusts his spectacles. "It is not a failure of morality alone. It is a failure of structure," he says. "The imbalance has not corrected itself over time. Concentration of income, wealth, opportunity – this is the logic of an economic system left unchecked by constitutional purpose. Inequality here is not accidental. It is designed, or at least permitted."

Nehru leans forward. "What troubles me," he says, "is that economic growth has not translated into well-being for all. An early economic advisor of mine, K N Raj, once remarked – We must hasten slowly! But if the bottom half remains stuck with roughly the same share year after year, and their material conditions do not improve, the high growth rate alone makes little sense. We need to question the material composition of that growth."

They turn to the next set of figures.

"The concentration of wealth is even sharper," Ambedkar notes. "The top one per cent alone commands a share many times that of the entire bottom half combined. This is exactly what we warned against in the Directive Principles. An economy that allows wealth to accumulate so heavily at the top has chosen sides."

Gandhi frowns. "When wealth ceases to recognise obligation, it ceases to have moral legitimacy. I spoke of trusteeship because I feared this – an India where possession outruns responsibility."

Nehru nods. "We believed the State would act as a balancing force – to prevent such extreme divergence. Planning was meant to discipline accumulation. These figures suggest that discipline has weakened."

Ambedkar turns a page. "What concerns me even more is what this means for democracy. Political equality cannot survive indefinitely alongside such economic inequality. When half the population commands a small fraction of income and wealth, their freedom is formal, not substantive."

Gandhi responds gently, "And fraternity cannot grow in such soil. When society is split so sharply between those who possess and those who endure, mutual regard withers. Inequality is not only material – it is relational."

They pause at the section on women.

"Here," Nehru says quietly, "is a grave indictment. Women's participation in economic life remains strikingly low."

Ambedkar's voice is firm. "This is a constitutional failure. Equality before the law means little if economic structures exclude women from livelihood. Democracy cannot rest on the economic dependence of half its citizens."

"And a society that sidelines women," Gandhi adds, "cripples its own moral strength. Development that does not include women is development without conscience."

They return to the ratios – shares held, shares denied.

"The report does not merely describe inequality," Nehru reflects. "It describes persistence. A Republic may tolerate hardship in transition, but what excuse does it have for stagnation in justice?"

Ambedkar answers sharply. "None. I warned that if social and economic inequalities remained unresolved, constitutional methods would come under strain. When promises endure only on paper, resentment seeks other outlets."

Gandhi closes the report. "The tragedy is not that India has produced wealth. It is that wealth has not produced care."

Silence returns.

Finally, Nehru speaks. "The Constitution was meant to be a direction. These figures suggest we have slowed, perhaps even turned away from it."

Ambedkar nods. "The Directive Principles were not decorative. They were warnings."

"And reminders," Gandhi adds softly. "That freedom without justice is only another form of bondage."

They rise. The report remains on the table. India, unfinished, continues to hum outside.

(The writer is a reflective development practitioner based in Kozhikode)

Delhi's air and the Republic's diminished breath

ASHUTOSH KUMAR THAKUR

Every winter, Delhi inhales its own excesses. The air thickens, visibility collapses, and breathing becomes an effort rather than an instinct. Schools shut, hospitals fill, and advisories multiply. The city learns, once again, to live with what should never be normal. The repetition has dulled outrage. The crisis now arrives on schedule, like a season we pretend is unavoidable.

This familiarity is the real danger. It transforms a public health emergency into a temporary inconvenience. What is forgotten is that the air does not suddenly turn toxic in November. It merely reveals, in winter, the cumulative burden of choices made over decades.

The explanations are familiar and conveniently partial. One year, the culprit is stubble burning in neighbouring states. Another year, it is firecrackers, traffic congestion, construction dust, or an unfavourable turn in the wind. None of these is false. All of them are incomplete. Delhi's pollution is not an episodic failure. It is structural. It is the outcome of administrative drift, ecological disregard, and political reluctance to confront uncomfortable truths. Nature is blamed because accountability is inconvenient.

Delhi was never designed to carry nearly 30 million people. Its growth since the 1970s has been shaped by unplanned urbanisation, shrinking rural livelihoods, and a development model that funnels opportunity into a few metropolitan centres. The city consumes water, energy, land, and clean air far beyond what its geography can sustain.

There was a time when Indian planners worried about limits. Early post-Independence debates acknowledged that rivers could be exhausted, forests depleted, and cities overextended. That caution has faded. Growth now proceeds as if the atmosphere were infinite. The capital of the Republic has become its most visible ecological contradiction.

There is no scientific ambiguity left. Prolonged exposure to fine particulate matter is linked to respiratory illness, heart disease, cognitive impairment in children, and shortened life expectancy. Global health estimates attribute more than a million premature deaths annually in India to air pollution.

For Delhi's poorest residents, the crisis is not seasonal. Construction workers, street vendors, and sanitation staff breathe this air all year, without purifiers, without protection, without escape. Pollution is not evenly shared. It follows lines of class and power with ruthless precision.

Yet policy responses remain theatrical. Emergency measures are rolled out when pollution peaks. Construction bans, vehicle rationing, and symbolic prohibitions offer the appearance of action. They rarely touch the roots of the problem. The State prefers gestures because reform demands persistence, coordination, and political risk.

Delhi's air exposes a deeper flaw in India's federal imagination. Pollution drifts freely across state borders, but governance remains rigidly territorial. Responsibility circulates endlessly between the Centre, the Delhi government, and neighbouring states.

Stubble burning cannot be addressed through punishment alone. It requires investment in agricultural alternatives, changes in procurement policies, and sustained support for farmers. Vehicular pollution demands reliable public transport, serious urban planning, and the discouragement of private car dependency. These challenges are not technological; they are political.

Institutions exist, but without authority or autonomy. Coordination is spoken of more often than practised. The result is paralysis disguised as procedure.

Pollution is often described as a shared suffering. It is not. Those with means retreat into sealed homes, filtered offices, and private vehicles. Those without means remain exposed. This pattern is not new. India's environmental history is filled with examples where ecological damage is borne by those least responsible for it. Air pollution continues that tradition. Clean air remains a privilege, not a right, despite its intimate connection to life itself.

Other cities have confronted similar crises with seriousness. London's lethal smog in the 1950s led to stringent laws. Beijing, once emblematic of hazardous air, has improved measurably through regulation, industrial relocation, and investment in renewables.

India does not lack knowledge. It lacks resolve. Pollution control is too often left to courts, which intervene because elected governments hesitate. Judicial action may compel compliance, but it cannot substitute for political leadership.

Citizenship and restraint

The crisis also raises an uncomfortable question about civic behaviour. Firecrackers, waste burning, and resistance to change are defended as tradition or convenience. But traditions survive only by adapting. A society unwilling to negotiate restraint cannot protect its commons. Citizenship is not only about claiming rights. It is also about accepting limits. Breathing clean air should not require another citizen to inhale poison.

Delhi's air is a mirror held up to the Indian State. It reflects a failure to align development with ecology, governance with evidence, and freedom with responsibility. The air we share is a collective inheritance. Its degradation is a collective failure.

A republic is judged not only by how fast it grows, but by how carefully it sustains life. The question Delhi's air asks is simple and unsettling: can the Indian State still protect the most basic condition of living, the act of breathing?

(The author writes on society, literature, arts and environment, reflecting on the shared histories and cultures of South Asia)

Alcohol and hearts: Science splits again

The American Heart Association's report runs contrary to recent studies — and the group's own guidelines — that found any amount of alcohol to be harmful

RONI CARYN RABIN

FILE PHOTO/ ISTOCK IMAGES

For a while, it seemed the notion that light drinking was good for the heart had gone by the wayside, debunked by new studies and overshadowed by warnings that alcohol causes cancer.

Now the American Heart Association has revived the idea in a scientific review that is drawing intense criticism, setting off a new round of debate about alcohol consumption.

The paper, which sought to summarise the latest research and was aimed at practising cardiologists, concluded that light drinking — one to two drinks a day — posed no risk for coronary disease, stroke, sudden death and possibly heart failure, and may even reduce the risk of developing these conditions.

Controversy over the influential organisation's review has been simmering since it was published in the association's journal Circulation in July.

Public health groups and many doctors have warned, based on recent studies, that alcohol can be harmful even in small amounts. Groups including the European Heart Network and the World Heart Federation have stressed that even modest drinking increases the odds of cardiovascular disease.

In anticipation of new dietary guidelines, however, the Trump administration in September withdrew a report emphasising the links between alcohol and at least seven cancers, which found that the risk for oral and oesophageal tumours begins rising at one drink a day.

The administration is relying instead on another report that concluded moderate drinkers had a lower risk of heart attacks and a lower all-cause mortality than abstainers. But the report noted a higher breast cancer risk for women who drink.

Dr Mariell Jessup, the chief science and medical officer at the Heart Association, said its review was focused on cardiovascular disease because that is the organisation's mission, adding that the review was not meant to serve as a guideline and that the group's advice to patients has not changed.

"It says in all our guidelines right now, 'If you don't drink, don't start.' There's not enough evidence to suggest conclusively that it prevents heart disease," Jessup said in an interview.

But critics say even the suggestion of possible benefits for heart health is dangerous, because the risks of drinking are so great. They faulted how the heart association selected and weighed the studies it examined, and said at least one author had ties to the alcohol industry in the past that should have disqualified him from participation.

"The cardiovascular benefits of moderate drinking are questionable at best," said Dr Elizabeth Farkouh, an internist and alcohol researcher. "But even if there was a benefit, there are so many other ways to reduce cardiovascular risk that don't come with an associated cancer risk."

Farkouh and her colleagues wrote a letter conveying their concerns to the AHA in July. She said the organisation did not acknowledge receipt until this month, when asked about it by The New York Times.

The new review's conclusion is at odds with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's guidance on alcohol, which notes that "even moderate drinking may increase your risk of death and other alcohol-related harms, compared to not drinking."

The review also seems to diverge from the Heart Association's diet and lifestyle recommendation to consume "limited or preferably no alcohol," along with its 2023 statement that recent research suggests there is "no safe level of alcohol use."

No one disputes that heavy drinking is harmful. The debate — and it is a perennial one — concerns light to moderate drinking and whether that provides more protection from cardiovascular disease than not drinking at all. Heart disease is the leading cause of death among Americans.

Questions about light drinking are cropping up again now because the U.S. dietary guidelines, which have long set parameters for safe alcohol use, are supposed to be updated by the end of the year.

The new guidance may be especially important for the alcohol industry, which is experiencing a slump in beer and wine sales, and more generally for Americans, who have greatly reduced their consumption. Only 54% still drink alcohol, and 53% say that even moderate drinking is bad for one's health, a recent Gallup poll found.

There is no shortage of studies on the relationship between alcohol consumption and heart disease, but the quality of the evidence is variable, experts say. The results are often contradictory and interpretations differ.

The research has been financed at times by groups affiliated with the alcoholic beverage industry. Passions run high on both sides of the controversy, and scientists have been reluctant to run randomised controlled trials that deliberately expose participants to a harmful substance, even though such studies provide the most reliable evidence.

"There is a huge literature on this, but it's almost entirely observational studies, which by definition are pretty weak," said John Ioannidis, a professor at Stanford University who has written about why many studies' findings are not reproducible.

Observational studies follow individuals and can find associations between a behaviour, such as light drinking, and an outcome, such as heart disease or death, but cannot prove cause and effect.

When a scientific review is conducted, "a lot depends on which studies you choose," Ioannidis said. "Experts don't agree on what the best studies are."

"Some are clearly horrible, some are good, but a lot are in the grey zone, and people may just cherry-pick and select those that agree more with their narrative."

Critics of the new review said the authors had done precisely that, and had failed to consider or give adequate weight to studies that undermined the hypothesis that light drinking had benefits.

Until 10 years ago, the federal government's dietary guidelines endorsed the idea that moderate drinking was linked to a lower risk of cardiovascular disease and lower overall mortality, and might even help maintain cognitive function.

But in 2020, the guidelines were changed to say for the first time that "emerging evidence" indicated that even moderate drinking was harmful, and may raise the risk of dying from some cancers and some forms of heart disease.

Those guidelines still say it is safe for men to have up to two standard servings of alcohol a day and for women to drink up to one serving. (A serving is defined as 0.6 fluid ounces of pure alcohol — equivalent to 12 ounces of regular beer, 5 ounces of table wine, or 1.5 fluid ounces of distilled spirits.)

The Beer Institute maintains that current dietary guidelines should not be changed without objective and rigorous scientific review. WineAmerica, a national group representing nearly 500 wineries, says the guidelines "allow our industry to promote responsible consumption."

There is one thing both sides in the debate agree on: Randomised controlled clinical trials would help resolve many lingering questions. But not all of them.

When patients with atrial fibrillation, a heart rhythm disorder, were instructed to stop drinking in a recent trial, their risk of experiencing a new episode dropped sharply.

Yet observational studies have found that people who drank one glass of wine a day are less likely to develop the disorder in the first place. The heart association review concluded that the effect of moderate drinking on atrial fibrillation "remains unknown."

The New York Times

The Messi legend, lost in spectacle

ADITYA MUKHERJEE

When Abhinav Bindra speaks about sport in India, it is worth listening closely – not merely because he is an Olympic gold medallist, but because he has lived the long, lonely arc of excellence. His recent remarks on India's near-hysterical response to Lionel Messi's visit strike at an uncomfortable truth: we are a nation that celebrates sporting stardom far more enthusiastically than sporting systems.

No one disputes Lionel Messi's greatness. His journey from a frail child in Rosario, battling growth hormone deficiency, to becoming Argentina's talisman and one of football's immortals is a story that transcends sport. Bindra himself acknowledged this struggle and triumph. Messi deserves admiration, respect, and even reverence. But what unsettled Bindra – and should unsettle us – is not Messi's presence in India, but the manner in which we responded to it.

Politicians queued up for photographs. Celebrities jostled for proximity with Messi. Social media erupted with breathless commentary, selfies, and sound bites. The visit became less about football and more about visibility, being seen with greatness rather than investing in it. In a country where grassroots sports infrastructure is starved of resources, this spectacle felt deeply discordant to Bindra.

India's relationship with sport has long been performative. We love the crescendo of victory, the medal ceremony, the ticker-tape parade. But we are far less patient with the years of anonymity, discipline, and sacrifice that precede success. The shooting range in Dehradun, the wrestling *akhara* in Haryana, the dusty football field in Manipur – these are not glamorous spaces. They do not attract cameras or hashtags. Yet this is where champions are forged.

The astronomical sums reportedly spent on Messi's four-city tour raise uncomfortable questions. Could even a fraction of that money have transformed district-level coaching programmes? Could it have upgraded community football grounds, funded sports science support, or ensured nutritional security for young athletes? In a nation of 1.4 billion people, talent is abundant; opportunity is not.

There is also a deeper cultural issue at play. In India, proximity to fame often matters more than contribution to the field itself. A politician or a film star photographed with Messi gains instant social capital. A struggling coach in a government school gains nothing except, perhaps, another year of broken equipment and unpaid allowances. This obsession with reflected glory has infected sport just as it has cinema and politics.

Ironically, Messi himself represents the opposite ethic. His greatness was not manufactured through events or endorsements, but built painstakingly through systems – clubs that invested in youth development, coaches who nurtured talent, and belief in a fragile child when success was uncertain. Argentina did not wait for Messi to become a global icon before backing him. They backed the process.

India, by contrast, often waits for miracles. When a Bindra wins gold or a Neeraj Chopra hurls a javelin into history, we erupt in celebration and move on. The ecosystem that produced them remains fragile, underfunded, and dependent on individual grit rather than institutional strength. We lionise exceptions while ignoring the rule.

This is not an argument against inviting global icons to India — exposure matters. Inspiration matters. Young footballers seeing Messi in the flesh may well dream bigger. But inspiration without infrastructure is cruelty disguised as hope. Bindra's discomfort should prompt introspection. Are we investing in sport as a spectacle or as a social good? Do we want champions, or merely moments? A serious sporting nation measures success not by the decibels of applause, but by the quiet efficiency of its academies, the competence of its coaches, and the dignity with which it treats its athletes long before they are famous.

India stands at a crossroads. We can continue to be starstruck, or we can build a culture that values perseverance. Messi's visit will fade into memory, as all events do. What will endure is whether we use that moment to ask hard questions about ourselves.

The glitter of celebrity visits and high-profile optics may satisfy our craving for instant validation, but they do little to strengthen the roots of Indian sport. Real progress demands long-term vision, steady investment, and the humility to work offstage. Otherwise, we will remain a nation applauding shadows on the wall, while the real struggle for sporting excellence continues in near silence. Bindra has done his part by asking. The answer now rests with us.

(The writer is a Delhi-based journalist)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: DECEMBER 1975

Mujib killers had Presidential Pardon

Dacca, Dec. 18
The Army officers responsible for the assassination of Sheikh Mujibur Rehman and his family members have received a Presidential "pardon" from Mr Khondakar Mushtaque Ahmed. They were offered pardon on September 26-six weeks after the assassination by an ordinance which placed them above trial by any court. The officers have since fled to Libya, where they sought political asylum. The ordinance was not circulated to the press, nor was a copy of it supplied to the booksellers authorised to sell government documents.

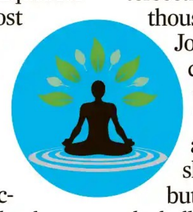
25 YEARS AGO: DECEMBER 2000

TDP stalls LS proceedings over farmers' issue

New Delhi, Dec 18
The Telugu Desam Party (TDP), which extends outside support to the Vajpayee Government, accused the Centre of apathy towards the farmers of Andhra Pradesh. TDP members, led by floor leader K Yerran Naidu, stalled the question hour as soon as it assembled this morning. The Opposition, particularly RJD members from Bihar, were on their toes, accusing the government of treating non-NDA states in a step-motherly manner when it came to Central procurement of grains. The Opposition members eventually staged a walkout.

OASIS | JAYANTHI CHANDRASEKARAN

Skills are common, talent is rare



Skills and talent are considered the dynamic duo of achievement. While skills are an essential outcome of discipline and training, talent is that unteachable essence, an intuitive mastery that appears effortless. Anyone with perseverance can learn to code, paint, play the violin, or speak eloquently. Talent, however, belongs to a different realm. It is the spark that cannot be manufactured, a gift that sets one apart from the multitude. In today's competitive world, where technology can replicate most skills, the rarity of true talent becomes even more precious.

In every sphere of life, from classrooms to corporate corridors, we hear the word "skills" repeated like a mantra. Communication skills, leadership skills, problem-solving skills — the list is endless. There are structured paths, tutorials, mentors, and techniques for acquiring proficiency in almost any area, and the assurance that hard work can compensate for natural limitations. A skilled worker builds reliability, efficiency, and precision, all of which are essential for progress and success. Yet, skills alone seldom lead to greatness. They ensure competence, not brilliance.

In the fields of science and innovation, too, the difference is evident. Many engineers understand technology, but Steve Jobs combined design, emotion, and functionality in a way no textbook could teach. His talent lay in perceiving the intersection of art and technology. While thousands could build a phone, only Jobs could envision the iPhone. In cricket, countless players practise the same techniques, yet Sachin Tendulkar's timing, anticipation, and instinct set him apart. His skill was honed through effort, but his talent — his ability to "see" the ball a split second earlier than others was nature's gift. The same holds for Lionel Messi, the iconic football player, whose footwork and vision seem to transcend coaching manuals.

When people rely too much on natural talent, they may limit their growth and become victims of the 'talent trap'. For instance, a naturally artistic person might avoid structured learning — such as composition, anatomy, or design principles — because their talent earned them praise early. Their work would plateau with time, while their peers who studied fundamentals would evolve into sophisticated professionals.

Thus, the world needs both skilled individuals to keep it functioning and talented ones to change the ordinary into the extraordinary. Talent, combined with soft skills such as empathy, collaboration, communication, and patience, builds not only a career but also a character that inspires.

FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME: Performance audit across 8 states finds 94% trainee bank account details invalid

CAG flags major lapses in Centre's skill scheme

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), in its report on the government's flagship skill development programme, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), highlighted glaring loopholes in the data management of assessors and trainees, including their bank account details.

The performance audit of the scheme, covering the period between 2015 and 2022, was conducted across eight states. Launched in 2015 by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in three phases, PMKVY carried a combined outlay of Rs 14,500 crore with the objective of training 1.32 crore people.

The scheme is aimed at providing industry-level skill training and certification to help secure sustainable livelihoods.

The report released on Thursday pointed out that, upon examining data on trainees and assessors in 3.39 lakh batches, it was found that the trainer ID was recorded as 'Null' or '0' in 2,30,758 batches involving 61,12,030 certified candidates.

In 3,27,220 batches, the assessor's contact number was listed as 'null' or 'none', even though these batches certified more than 93 lakh candidates. This was despite the Skill India Portal's data model making it mandatory to register trainer and assessor names along with mobile numbers.

The scheme guidelines also mandate that candidates must have valid bank accounts, as certified trainees are eligible to receive Rs 500.

The CAG found that the bank account field of more than 90.66 lakh out of 95.90 lakh participants (94.53%) contained entries such as zeros, 'Null', 'NA', or were left blank. Among the remaining 5,24,537 candidates, 12,122 unique bank account numbers were repeated for 52,381 participants in two or more instances.

The report noted that a large number of candidates who did not meet the entry criteria for specific job roles were certified under the scheme. For job roles requiring prior technical qualifications, more than 84% of those certified were either uneducated, had only basic literacy or had regular general education.

In a case study from Kerala, only five candidates secured employment, compared to the claim of 14 trainees.

Another company informed the CAG that of the 17 candidates claimed by the training provider (TP), none were actually employed. Following the CAG's observation, the state government recovered more than Rs 22 lakh from the TPs involved.

Under the scheme, TPs receive the third and final tranche based on the placement outcomes of the candidates they train.

The audit report noted that PMKVY lacked a structured system for identifying, onboarding and verifying targeted beneficiaries such as unemployed youth and school/college dropouts. It also noted the absence of a data retention policy to record electronic identities and contact details of trainers, assessors, and beneficiaries, thereby weakening IT controls.

GLARING LOOPHOLES

- **Audit of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (2015-2022)** across 8 states highlights major data lapses
- Trainer IDs **'Null/0' in 2.30 lakh batches,** affecting 61 lakh certified candidates
- Assessor contact numbers missing in **3.27 lakh batches**

84% of certified candidates lack required technical qualifications

Railways failed to monetise vacant land: Report

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Flagging Indian Railways' failure to monetise vacant land, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has observed that out of a land holding of about 4.88 lakh hectares, the Railway could identify only 13% as vacant land by March 2023, and managed to award a negligible 0.14% of it to developers.

The CAG report, tabled in the Lok Sabha on Thursday said that none of the awarded commercial sites were developed as of March 2023.

"Out of a total land holding of about 4.88 lakh hectares with Indian Railways as of March 2023, only 62,740 hectares (13%) was identified as vacant by Indian Railways. Railway managed to award a negligible 87.76 hectares (0.14% of vacant land) to developers," the report said.

The CAG said despite the Railway establishing the Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) in 2006 to develop and monetise surplus land, the authority failed to achieve the desired result.

"Approximately 997.83 hectares (1.59% of the entire vacant land) was entrusted to the RLDA by the Ministry of Railways since 2006 over different phases for commercial development and monetisation," noted the report, adding that despite the availability of such land, the RLDA, as of March 2023, awarded only 8.8% (87.76 hectares) of land entrusted to it.

It also noted that many sites with unresolved land-title issues, encroachments, and other encumbrances were entrusted to the RLDA, resulting in non-monetisation.

Pointing out that the Railway's revenues traditionally came primarily from two passenger and freight traffic, the audit report said passenger fares could not be stretched beyond a point as it affected affordability and inclusiveness, while depending entirely on freight earnings was neither prudent nor sustainable.

The country's top auditor said it had been emphasising the importance of non-fare revenue as a critical component of Indian Railways' financial strategy. Among non-fare revenue sources, the monetisation of land assets was particularly significant, said the report.

Cong killed Gandhi's ideals many times: Union minister

NEW DELHI, DHNS: After the Lok Sabha was adjourned following the discussion on the VB G RAM G Bill, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Chouhan told reporters that the ruckus in Parliament was against Mahatma Gandhi's ideals, and that democracy had been transformed into "mobocracy".

He also said the Congress had "killed" the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi many times over, and used his name for political gains.

"The disgraceful conduct of the Opposition during the debate on the VB G RAM G Bill was like goondaraj," said Chouhan.

"The Opposition is only concerned about the name, but we are more focused on the work," he added.

"I strongly condemn the disgraceful behaviour of the Congress and the I.N.D.I.A-bloc MPs. They disgraced democracy and tore parliamentary traditions to shreds," he said.

TNCC President K Selvaperunthagai, second from right, with leaders of alliance parties holds portraits of Mahatma Gandhi during a protest against the G RAM G Bill. PTI

Parl clears SHANTI Bill, opens civil nuclear sector to pvt firms

POWER MOVE

- Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India Bill awaits Prez assent
- It will replace 2 existing laws: the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, and Civil Liability to Nuclear Damage Act, 2010

NEW DELHI, DHNS: With the Rajya Sabha clearing the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Bill, Parliament on Thursday put its stamp of approval on a piece of legislation that will open up the civilian nuclear-power sector to private firms after almost eight decades.

Responding to a debate in the Upper House, Union Science Minister Jitendra Singh, who also looks after the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), said the Centre set targets of achieving 22 GW of nuclear energy by 2032, 47 GW by 2037, 67 GW by 2042, and 100 GW by 2047, contributing nearly 10% of India's total energy needs.

The Bill, passed by the Lok Sabha a day earlier, will require the President's assent before it turns into a new law replacing two existing ones — the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, and the Civil Liability to Nuclear Damage Act, 2010 — that currently govern the nuclear sector.

On the contentious dropping of a clause on suppliers' liability from the 2010 Act, Singh said when the BJP was in favour of such a provision in the law, the safety concerns were different, but the scenario changed due to rapid technology transformations.

"Safety concerns were different in 2010. We had not heard of artificial intelligence. Small modular reactors (SMRs) were never thought of. But we now want to have SMRs and Bharat SMRs in residential colonies," he said, adding that the private sector would also play a key role in nuclear energy's expansion.

Singh asserted that mining for uranium and handling of spent fuel and heavy water would be under strict government control.

Parl panel backs decision to host Hasina, cites humanitarian tradition

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

At a time when Bangladesh is pressing India to extradite former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and radical groups in Dhaka have stepped up campaigns against New Delhi for hosting her, a parliamentary panel said the Narendra Modi government should be guided by its humanitarian tradition of offering refuge to individuals facing existential threats.

The report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs, tabled in the Lok Sabha on Thursday, noted that India had long ago virtually rejected the Bangladesh interim government's demand for Hasina's extradition.

India said it has continued to host the deposed Bangladesh PM since August 2024 in line with its civilisational principle of offering refuge to "anybody" seeking assistance "at a moment of existential crisis".

The government stressed that she was not being provided a platform to undertake political activity from India and was using "private communication devices" to issue statements. Hasina's stay would not "constrict" New Delhi's engagement with Dhaka, the parliamentary panel report quoted Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri as saying.

The committee took note of Bangladesh's renewed request for Hasina's extradition after she was sentenced to death by a Dhaka court, but stressed that India's approach should be guided by its civilisational ethos and humanitarian tradition of offering refuge to those facing circumstances of grave distress.

'Situation in Bangladesh complex and evolving'

The situation in Bangla desh is "complex and evolving", a parliamentary committee on external affairs said. The Ministry of External Affairs informed the panel that the government "remains concerned" about the attacks on minorities there.

The report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs, led by Congress' Shashi Tharoor, was presented in Parliament. "The committee has been informed that the current situation in Bangladesh is complex and evolving. The political events of Aug 2024 have created instability," it said.

Mamata renames Bengal scheme after Mahatma Gandhi

KOLKATA, DHNS: Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday not only criticised the BJP-led Union government for moving to replace the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) with a new law but also announced that the West Bengal government's own "Karmashree" scheme would be rechristened to bear the name of the Father of the Nation.

"I feel ashamed that they have decided to remove Mahatma Gandhi's name from the NREGA programme. I, too, belong to this country. Are we now forgetting even the Father of the Nation?" asked Banerjee.

"We will now rename the Karmashree scheme after Mahatma Gandhi, because if they cannot show respect to our national heroes, we will. We know how to honour our national icon Mahatma ji and others like Netaji, Tagore, Nazrul, Ambedkar, Maulana Azad, Sardar Patel, and Rajendra Prasad," she said.

Cong working committee meet to focus on elections, new Bill

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

MORE ON AGENDA

- Senior leaders like Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, K C Venugopal, and Ajay Maken to participate
- At meeting, CWC will also look to take 'vote chori' campaign forward
- There will also be an analysis on SIR

The Congress Working Committee (CWC) will meet on December 27 to discuss the country's emerging political situation, debating issues like its strategy to fight the new rural job guarantee law replacing MGNREGA and elections to five states and Union Territories, besides analysing what went wrong in Bihar.

The first meeting of the party's highest decision-making body after the Bihar Assembly elections, in which the Congress and the I.N.D.I.A bloc were decimated by the NDA, will also evaluate the party's organisation revamp programme announced in Karnataka's Belagavi a year ago.

Sources said the meeting would be held at 10 am on December 27, a day before the party's Foundation Day.

Leaders like Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, K C Venugopal, and Ajay Maken are expected to participate in the meeting, to be chaired by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge.

One of the main agenda of the meeting will be designing a protest against the VB-G RAM G Bill, 2025, which replaced the MGNREGA by changing it to a supply-driven scheme and putting its financial burden on the states.

The party has already announced the first round of protests, which will focus on the removal of Mahatma Gandhi's name from the law, besides other issues.

Sources said the CWC would also take the "vote chori" campaign forward, in which other issues like the rural job guarantee scheme would be woven in.

There will also be an analysis on the second round of the SIR of voter rolls.

Maha Cong's Pradnya Satav resigns as MLC, joins BJP

MUMBAI, DHNS: In the biggest jolt to the Congress in Maharashtra, the party's legislator Pradnya Satav quit as Member of Legislative Council (MLC) and joined the BJP on Thursday.

Pradnya, the late Congress leader Rajeev Satav's wife, was reportedly upset with the party's local leadership.

While joining the BJP, she said the development agenda of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis inspired her.

The resignation creates hurdles for the Congress, which is claiming the post of Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council.

As per the current strength in the Council, the Congress is the largest party on the Opposition benches with seven members; however, with Pradnya's resignation, the party's number has been reduced to six.

The Shiv Sena (UBT) has 6 members, while the NCP (SP) has 3 members.

Ram Sutar, sculptor who immortalised leaders in bronze and stone, dies at 100

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Ram Sutar (1925-2025)

Internationally acclaimed sculptor Ram Sutar — creator of the iconic Statue of Unity in Gujarat, the tallest statue in the world honouring Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, and the 108-ft statue of Kempe Gowda at Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport — passed away on Wednesday night at his Noida residence in Uttar Pradesh. He was 100.

Often likened to the mastery of French sculptor Auguste Rodin and Italian genius Michelangelo, Sutar leaves behind a monumental legacy in stone and bronze.

Born on February 19, 1925, in Gondur village of Maharashtra's Dhule, Sutar rose to become one of India's most celebrated sculptors, and was honoured with the Padma Bhushan. He was conferred with the Maharashtra Bhushan, the highest honour of the Maharashtra government, last month.

"Deeply saddened by the passing of Shri Ram Sutar Ji, a remarkable sculptor whose mastery gave India some of its most iconic landmarks, including the Statue of Unity in Kevadia. He has immortalised national pride for generations to come. His works will keep inspiring artists and citizens alike," Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrote on X.

In a prolific career, Sutar created more than 350 statues across 150 Indian cities. Among his most celebrated works is the seated statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Parliament, with a larger replica installed in Bengaluru's Vidhana Soudha. He also sculpted the 108-foot statue of Kempe Gowda at Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru.

Sutar designed the statue of Babasaheb Ambedkar for the grand memorial at Indu Mills in Mumbai, honouring the chief architect of the Constitution. The artist is also credited with designing the statue of Lord Ram, planned for installation in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh.

A gold medallist from the JJ School of Art, Bombay, Sutar was renowned for his ease and mastery in bronze. Celebrated for his realistic sculptures, he earned recognition from artists and institutions across the world.

His bust of Mahatma Gandhi has been installed in more than 450 cities worldwide — from France, the USA and Italy to Argentina, Barbados, Russia, England, Malaysia, Germany, Australia, China, Egypt, Poland and South Africa. The work remains one of his most widely appreciated creations.

His legacy continues through his son, Anil Sutar, a sculptor and painter.

SC Collegium recommends elevation of 5 judges to HCs

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court Collegium on Thursday recommended for elevation five judges as chief justices to the high courts across the country.

It recommended the appointment of Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta of the Allahabad High Court as Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court. Justice Revati P Mohite Dere from the Bombay High Court was recommended to be the Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court.

Justice M S Sonak also from the Bombay High Court was recommended to be the Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court. Justice A Muhamed Mustaque of the Kerala High Court was recommended to be the Chief Justice of the Sikkim High Court. Justice Sangam Kumar Sahoo of the Orissa High Court was approved for elevation as the Chief Justice of the Patna High Court.

6 films denied screening nod at IFFK

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: As many as six films are unlikely to be screened at the ongoing International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK) owing to the lack of censorship exemption from the Central government.

The Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting sent a communication to the state government that six films should not be screened.

Even as academy officials were yet to make it clear whether those films would be screened, two of the films were not screened despite being on the schedule. Two other films had already been screened during the IFFK.

Telangana panchayat polls: Cong retains dominance; BJP makes inroads

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

The ruling Congress continues to maintain its dominance across Telangana's rural tracts, if the results of the gram panchayat elections that concluded on Wednesday — with polling held in three phases across 12,727 panchayats — are anything to go by.

However, in a notable development, the BRS in the Opposition secured a significant number of panchayats, signalling a modest comeback.

Meanwhile, the BJP achieved a breakthrough by winning several rural local bodies for the first time. The saffron party, which had never contested such a large number of panchayats before, fielded or backed candidates in nearly 80% of the seats.

In the elections held without symbols and conducted on December 11, 14, and 17, Congress-backed candidates emerged victorious in 6,794 panchayats, including those won unanimously.

This accounted for over 53% of the total seats and underscored the party's strong rural foothold as it completed two years in office.

BRS-backed candidates won 3,503 seats, marking a modest improvement after the party's poor performance in both the 2023 Assembly and the next year's Lok Sabha polls. While the BRS managed to perform relatively better in urban areas in the Assembly polls, it drew a blank in rural areas back then.

Meanwhile, the BJP continued its steady upward trajectory in Telangana. Candidates it backed secured around 697 panchayats, while Independents and others cornered the remaining 1,651 seats.

Air power emerged as decisive force: Rajnath

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal AP Singh during the Air Force Commanders' Conclave in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Amidst the ongoing theaterisation debate, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday described air power as "not just a tactical asset" but a "strategic instrument" that has emerged as a decisive force.

"Air power is not just a tactical asset but a strategic instrument. Its speed, surprise, and shock effects are its inherent characteristics," the minister said.

Describing the IAF as a 'technologically advanced' and future-ready force, Rajnath said, "Air power gives any leadership the capability to deliver a clear strategic message to the adversary."

India has 17 single-service commands shared between the army (7), air force (7), and navy (3), besides two tri-service commands. For the past six years, there has been an exercise to create geography-specific theatre commands, but they are yet to be realised.

The air force was against such a plan from the beginning. Rajnath stated the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the Israel-Hamas war, the Balakot air strikes, and Operation Sindoor were proof that air power emerged as a decisive force in modern times.

Doctor, whose hijab Nitish pulled, may snub govt job

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

The hijab row in Bihar is refusing to die down. Close on the heels of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar pulling the hijab of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy) doctor Nusrat Praveen while handing her an appointment letter on December 15, the woman, whose video has gone viral, might snub the Bihar government job.

Her brother told reporters that she was thoroughly disgusted and hugely embarrassed over the incident and might not join the Bihar Government job. Nusrat was scheduled to join the service on December 20.

"We are trying to convince her that it was not her fault, so why should she suffer? Why should she give up her career because of someone else's actions? But she is under huge mental stress and, most probably, she won't join the services," he said.

Reportedly, Nusrat has left Bihar and gone to Kolkata, where her parents stay.

Meanwhile, Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh stoked the controversy further when he appeared to make light of Nusrat's decision: "Whether the girl refuses the job or goes to hell, that's her choice."

This seemed to add more fuel to the fire after UP minister Sanjay Nishad's unsavoury remarks against the woman on Wednesday.

Notably, Nitish pulled down the woman's hijab, asking, "What is this?", at Samvad Hall in the CM Secretariat in Patna on December 15.

'Shameful act'

It sparked a huge controversy, with the likes of J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and lyricist Javed Akhtar slamming Nitish in no uncertain terms for the "shameful act".

The RJD and the Congress questioned Nitish's mental health and cited similar recent misdemeanours by the Bihar CM to buttress their point.

However, Giriraj, like the UP minister, came to the JD(U) leader's defence. "Nitish has done no wrong. If someone is going to collect an appointment letter, should they not show their face? Is this some Islamic country?" asked Giriraj.

Kerala SIR: Nearly 25 lakh voters 'untraceable'

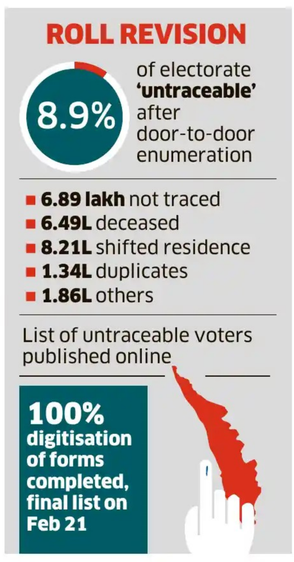
Enumeration concludes, draft list to be published on Dec 23

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

As the door-to-door enumeration of electoral rolls for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Kerala concluded on Thursday, nearly 25 lakh people out of 2.78 crore in the latest voters' list remained in the 'untraceable' category.

While the figure had earlier crossed 25 lakh, it has since been reduced through booth-level officers coordinating with booth-level agents of political parties to trace as many voters as possible. The numbers are expected to drop further as the process continues.

Kerala Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Rathan U Kelkar said that as of Thursday morning, the 24.81 lakh 'untraceable' voters—accounting for 8.9% of the total electorate — include 6.89 lakh people who could not be traced at all, 6.49 lakh deceased individuals, 8.21 lakh people who had shifted residence, 1.34 lakh duplicate entries and 1.86 lakh in other categories. The other categories include those unwilling to return filled enumeration forms.



The CEO added that the list of untraceable voters had already been published online. However, following attempts to misuse the data to create confusion among voters, a police complaint was filed.

The CEO said that 100% digitisation of filled forms has already been completed, and those received until the end of the day on December 18 will also be considered. The draft list will be published on December 23, objections can be filed till January 22, 2026, and the final list will be released on February 21. Afterwards, a drive to enrol fresh voters will also be carried out.

The ruling CPM and the Opposition Congress in Kerala have raised concerns over the high number of untraceable voters and sought more time for the SIR process. On Thursday, the Supreme Court directed the Election Commission to "sympathetically consider" the request for extending the deadline.

SC urges EC to consider deadline extension in Kerala and UP

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Election Commission to "sympathetically consider" requests for extending the deadline for submission of enumeration forms in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process of electoral rolls in Uttar Pradesh and Kerala.

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi allowed the petitioners to make a representation to the EC on the issue of time extension.

"Please consider such representation sympathetically and, keeping in view all the ground realities and relevant factors, take an appropriate decision," the bench told senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for the EC. The court was hearing a batch of pleas challenging SIR process across several states.

The EC's counsel said he would need additional time to file a response to the petitions challenging the process in Uttar Pradesh and Kerala.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing in petitions related to Kerala, claimed that 25 lakh names were on the verge of deletion in the state. "Husband is there, the wife's name is not there — they have deleted the wife's name," he said.

The court also recorded that the EC will make its submissions on the petitions challenging the legality of the SIR on January 6, 2026.

2026 contest between 'evil DMK' and 'pure TVK': Vijay

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
ERODE, DHNS

TVK chief Vijay speaks during a public meeting, in Erode on Thursday. PTI

Invoking AIADMK legends M G Ramachandran and J Jayalalithaa by borrowing their "DMK is an evil force" phrase to launch a blistering attack on the ruling party in Tamil Nadu, actor-politician Vijay on Thursday said he was not opposed to welfare schemes—an integral part of the state's polity — and derided those who described them as "freebies".

MGR and Jayalalithaa used the often-repeated phrase "the DMK is an evil force" to turn the AIADMK into the primary force against the now 75-year-old party.

The AIADMK ruled for about 30 years after the Dravidian narrative became the order of the day in 1967.

In his 20-minute speech at the TVK's first public meeting after the tragic death of 41 people in Karur on September 27, Vijay projected himself as the "primary anti-DMK force" in Tamil Nadu, telling the AIADMK that its leaders belong not only to the party but to the people of the state.

Though Vijay skirted important topics like the Thiruparankundram temple row, the repealing of MGNREGA, and SIR, the actor's speech — cinematic, at times — catered to his fans who lapped up every word and kept screaming "Thalapathy" and "TVK".

In a carefully devised strategy, Vijay placed people at the centre of his speech by making his address interactive at times, asking them whether the DMK had fulfilled its promises made during the 2021 election campaign.

"Did you hear what they say, CM sir? If not, we will make you hear next year," he said.

The atmosphere at the rally was electrifying, with a 30,000-strong crowd waiting patiently for three hours for Vijay and his speech.

VISVESVARAYA TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
"Jnana Sangama", Belagavi - 590 018, Karnataka State.

No.: V.T.U./BGM/S.A.P./CW1/36/T-730/2025-26/4864 Date: 18-12-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Registrar, VTU, Belagavi, invites (Two Cover Systems) E-tenders for the following Work through E-procurement Tendering mode. **Name of Work : Tender for Printing and Supply of Grade Cards to VTU Examination Section, Belagavi. Amount put to Tender : Rs. 58,50,000/-, EMD : Rs. 1,17,000/-, Last Date for Receipt of Tender :01-01-2026 upto 2.30 p.m. Date of Opening of Tender : 02-01-2026 at 4.00 p.m.** The details regarding participation in the E-Tendring can be accessed by logging to our **VTU Website : www.vtu.ac.in** and KPPP Portal **Website : www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Registrar.
V.T.U., Belagavi,

DIPR/Belagavi/1495/Manipal/2025-26

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING WING
Office of the Chief Engineer, Arogya Soudha, 3rd Floor, Leprosy Hospital Premises, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560 023
Phone No.: 080-29557023 E-mail:**cekhsdrp@gmail.com**
No: HFWD/EW/CE/TA-1/AE-3/TND/2025-26/3237 Date:18.12.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible Class-I contractors registered in KPWD in two Cover tender document system through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for the work of **Upgradation of 30 bed CHC to 100 Bed Taluk Level Hospital at Saraguru Mysuru District.** Approximate Amount Put to Tender: **Rs. 2865.00 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 28.65 Lakhs.** Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon): **15 Months.**
Calendar of Events: (1) Last date for receipt of tenders: **20.01.2026 up to 16.00 hrs. (2)** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **21.01.2026 at 16.01 hrs.**
The tender details can be downloaded from the KPP Portal Platform. Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and tender processing fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the KPP Portal Platform to participate in this tender.
NOTE: 1. All the rights are reserved by the undersigned for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids / individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. 2. Henceforth, any changes in the schedule / contents will not be published through newspapers and further changes will be updated only on e-procurement portal.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYATH, KOPPAL
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL DRINKING WATER & SANITATION DIVISION, KOPPAL
NO.RWS/Dn/KPL/MVSOM/2025-26/1058 Date: 17/12/2025

KPPP NOTIFICATION
Double Cover System (Second Call)

On Behalf of Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water Supply & sanitation Division, Koppal Invites e-Tender for **MVS O & M Non SDP Work** The eligible bidders are requested to submit the Bid in Double Cover System through kppp portol mode through portol **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** If any More Information Contractor should Contact this office in Office Hours.
Tender Processing Fee As Per KPPP Portol :
(1) Tender Downloading Date : **19/12/2025 Time: 10:00 AM to 03/01/2026 16:00** Hours **(2)** Tender receiving Date and Time : **19/12/2025 Time : 10:00 AM to 03/01/2026 16:00** Hours **(3)** Technical Bid Opening Date and Time : **05/01/2026 Date: 16:30** Hours **(4)** Financial Bid Opening after approval of the technical bid from the Competent Authority : **08/01/2026** or After Obtaining the Technical Bid Approval from the Competent Authority

Sd/- Executive Engineer
R.D.W & S .Division, Koppal

DIPR/Koppal/544/DeshpandePublicity/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಯುವ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ರಾಜ್ಯ ಯುವ ಕೇಂದ್ರ, ನೃಪತುಂಗ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560001.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 080–22215601, 22211246 ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ : 22215602

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಕ್ರೀಪ್ರಾ/ಸಿ5/49/2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.12.2025

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಿಂದ ಫಿಟ್ನೆಸ್ ತರಬೇತುದಾರರನ್ನು ಯುವ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಹಿರಿಯ ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ವಸತಿ ನಿಲಯದ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಪಟುಗಳಿಗೆ ಫಿಟ್ನೆಸ್ ತರಬೇತಿ ನೀಡುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ನೇಮಕಾತಿ ಆದೇಶ ನೀಡುವ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷದ ಅವಧಿಯವರೆಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕವಾಗಿ ಮಾಸಿಕ ಸಂಚಿತ ವೇತನ, ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ 13 ಫಿಟ್ನೆಸ್ ತರಬೇತುದಾರರ ಸೇವೆ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಭಾರತದ ಅರ್ಹ ನಾಗರೀಕರಿಂದ ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತರು ಅರ್ಜಿ ಮತ್ತು ಇನ್ನಿತರೆ ಪೂರಕ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ 05–01–2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ ಮಹಾ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ರಾಜ್ಯ ಯುವ ಕೇಂದ್ರ, ನೃಪತುಂಗ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560001 ಇವರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಮಾಸಿಕ ಸಂಚಿತ ವೇತನ, ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಹತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ಅರ್ಹತೆ ಮಾನದಂಡ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನೊಳಗೊಂಡ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯನ್ನು ಯುವ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ **dyes.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಮೇಲೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿರುವ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಆಯುಕ್ತರು
ಯುವ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಇಲಾಖೆ

DIPR/CP/4509/Zen/2025-26 ಹಾಗೂ ಮಹಾ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

Tender Notification
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Karnataka Housing Board invite tenders through Karnataka public procurement portal for below mentioned works.
Last date for submission of bid: 31.12.2025 upto 4.00 PM

Sl.No.	Name of the work
1	Proposed Construction of Women's Lounge for Government First Grade Women's College Building at Puttur in Dakshina Kannada District 2024-25 Scheme. **Work Indent No:** KHB/2025- 26/BD/WORK_INDENT 680 & IFT No.125/2025-26 Date: 17.12.2025. **Amount put to tender :** Rs.74,50,748/-
2	Proposed Construction of Women's Lounge for Government First Grade Women's College at Balamata, Mangalore Taluk, Dakshina Kannada District 2024-25 Scheme. **Work Indent No:** KHB/2025- 26/BD/WORK_INDENT 679 & IFT No.126/2025-26 Date: 17.12.2025. **Amount put to tender :** Rs.74,31,894/-
3	Proposed Construction of Women's Lounge for Government First Grade College Building for Women at Chikkamagaluru in Chikkamagaluru District 2024- 25 Scheme. **Work Indent No:** KHB/2025- 26/BD/WORK_INDENT 677 & IFT No.127/2025-26 Date: 17.12.2025. **Amount put to tender :** Rs.74,53,844/-.
4	Proposed Construction of Women's Lounge for Government First Grade Women's College at Dharwad in Dharwad District 2024-25 Scheme. **Work Indent No:** KHB/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT 678 & IFT No.128/2025-26 Date: 17.12.2025. **Amount put to tender :** Rs.75,94,769/-.

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Telephone No: 080-22273511/080-22100077, Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/4524/AKAR/2025-26 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru**

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ,
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ,
ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ–587103
Ph: 08354-235776 E-mail: dudc_bgk@yahoo.co.in, ltstaff dudc_bagalkote@yahoo.co.in

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಜಿನಕೋಬಾ: ಇಂ.ಕ್ಯಾ :2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17–12–2025

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಆಧ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999, ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿಗಳು 2000 ರಂತೆ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ನಗರಸಭೆ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ–2, ಪುರಸಭೆ ಹುನಗುಂದ–1, ಬದಾಮಿ–1 (ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ವಿಭಾಗ) ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ 04 ಇಂದಿರಾ ಕ್ಯಾಂಟೀನಗಳಿಗೆ (Indent No: DMA/2025-26/SE6865) ಹಾಗೂ ನಗರಸಭೆ ಜಮಖಂಡಿ–1, ಮುಧೋಳ–1, ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ಬೀಳಗಿ –1 (ಜಮಖಂಡಿ ವಿಭಾಗ) ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ 03 ಇಂದಿರಾ ಕ್ಯಾಂಟೀನಗಳಿಗೆ (Indent No : DMA/2025-26/SE6823) ಆಹಾರ ತಯಾರಿಸಿ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡಲು ಮತ್ತು ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಕುರಿತು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ದಲ್ಲಿ ಲಗತ್ತಿಸಿದ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ವಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸೂಚನೆಗಳು: **1) Pre-bid Meeting : 22-12-2025 at 01.30pm. 2) Last date of submission of Technical and Financial bid separately through E-procurement portal before: 29-12-2025. at 4:00 pm. 3) Opening of Technical bid is on Dtd : 02-01-2026 at 11.30 am. 4) Opening of price (financial) bid of the successfully tenders will be on or After Dated : 08-01-2026 at 11.30 am.**

ಸೂಚನೆ: ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರೆ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳು/ಸೇರ್ಪಡೆಗಳು ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವದು, ಯಾವುದೇ ದಿನ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಯೋಜನಾ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು
ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್/ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ/457/ಮಣಿಪಾಲ್/2025–26 ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಕೋಶ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ

No.: DCPU/BGM/Staff/E-Proc/Tender-2/2025-26 Date:18-12-2025

District Child Protection Unit, under the Women and Child Development Department, in Belgaum district Government Children's home for boys/girls, Government observation Home, Government special adoption agency institution that are functioning (Govt SAA), Regarding the recruitment of various vacant posts in after care home for men, nursing homes such as Counselors, Housemaids, Computer Operators and Group 'D' posts such as Cooks, Kitchen Assistants, Guards, Cleaners, Aaya, and Dhobi through external resource agencies

Tender Notification for e-procurement (2nd Call)

1:Tender announcement number and date:DCPU/BGM/Staff/E-Proc/Tender-2/2025-26 Date:18-12-2025, 2:Estimated amount of the tender:Rs.1,13,15,220/-, 3:Starting date for uploading tender form:18-12-2025,4:Last date for uploading Tender form:26-12-2025 5:30 PM, 5:Place, time and date of opening of technical envelope:Office of the District Child Protection Officer, Plot No.2688, Sector No.12, Double Road, Srinagar Belgaum. Date: 29-12-2025 at 12.00 noon, 6:Place, time and date of opening of financial envelope:Office of the District Child Protection Officer, Women and Child Development Department, Srinagar, Belgaum.Date:03-01-2026 at 12.00 PM, 7:EMD amount to be paid with tender:Rs.1,70,000-00.

For more information, check the website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and contact the District Child Protection Unit, Belgaum during office hours. Telephone number 0831-2474111.

Sd/-District Child Protection Officer,
District Child Protection Unit, Belgaum.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1498/KSMCA/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
VIJAYANAGARA AREA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
O.P.J. Centre, Ballari–Sandur by pass Road, Toranagallu–583 123, Ballari Dist. e-mail : commissionervada@gmail.com

No:VADA/Engg/DarojilakeDev/02/2025-26 Date: 17.12.2025

Tender Notification

Tenders have been invited from eligible agencies through the KPPP Portal in two-Cover format for the development of Daroji Lake under the Lake Development Charge of Vijayanagara Area Development Authority for the year 2025-26 Indent No. (VADA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT1).
NAME OF THE WORK: DEVELOPMENT OF DAROJI LAKE FOR BEUTIFICATION & OTHER WORKS AT SY NO 735 IN DAROJI VILLAGE SANDUR TALUK , BALLARI (VADA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT1). **POJECT COST IN LAKHS:** 260.00. **AMOUNT IN TENDER IN LAKH (WITHOUT GST):** 213.75. **EARNEST MONEY DEPOSIT IN LAKH:** 3.206
Instructions: 1.Tender Form Fee: As per kppp Portal. 2.Full details of the tender can be obtained only on the official website kppp Portal (http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in) (Urban Development Department). For More Details Contact: 8395295618 . 3.The Tender Inviting Authority has full power to accept or reject the tender as per para 14 and 15 of KTTP Act 1999 without giving any information.. 4.Date for downloading tender documents through the Government's online portal: 17.12.2025 onwards. 5.Last date for submission of tenders through the kppp portal: 17.01.2026 up to 4.00 PM. 6.Tender opening date: 19.01.2026 at 11.00 am, if missed the next day will be notified.

Sd/- Commissioner, Vijaynagara Area Development Authority, Tornagallu.

DIPR/Ballari/802/KSMCA/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಉಪವಿಭಾಗ, ರಾಯಚೂರು
ವಿಳಾಸ: ಕೋರ್ಟ ರಸ್ತೆ, ರಾಯಚೂರು–584101, ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08532–230029,
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: acftrcr@gmail.com

ಸಂ:ಸಅಸಂ/ರಾಉವಿ/ಕಾಂಪಾ/KPPP/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಹೊಸ.ಕಾ/ಸಿಆರ್–/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15.12.2025

ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ)

ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸುವುದೆನೆಂದರೆ, ರಾಯಚೂರು ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗದ ರಾಯಚೂರು ವಲಯದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಕಾಂಪಾ –06-Others ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಹೊಸ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಅರಣ್ಯಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರೆಂದು ನೊಂದಣಿಯಾಗಿರುವ ಆಸಕ್ತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ದಿನಾಂಕ:22.12.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನ ಇದ್ದು, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ:23.12.2025 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಯಶಸ್ವಿ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ:24.12.2025ರಂದು 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22.12.2025 ರಂದು ಯಾವುದೇ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳು ಸ್ವೀಕೃತವಾಗದಿದ್ದರೆ ಮತ್ತೆ ಎರಡನೇ ಸಲ ಸ್ವಯಂಚಾಲಿತ 07 ದಿನಗಳ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಅಂದರೆ, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.12.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನ ಇದ್ದು, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ:30.12.2025 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಯಶಸ್ವಿ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ:31.12.2025ರಂದು 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು. ಅಥವಾ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 08532–230029 ಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಉಪವಿಭಾಗ,
ರಾಯಚೂರು

DIP/RCR/608/KSMC&A/610/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT TRIBLE WELFARE OFFICER, BIDAR.
Kamthana-Chidri Road,Near Akka Mahadevi Nursing College Chidri Bidar-585401.
E-Mail : dtwobidar@gmail.com Ph: No. 08482-200058

No.DTWO/BIDAR/FOOD TENDER/CR.10/2025-26. Dated: 15.12.2025

:: E-TENDER PUBLICATION ::

For the year of 2025-26 inviting E-Procurment Tender for supply Food Grains and others Materials (A to H) to Pre Matric and Post Matric Hostels for maintened by Trible Welfare Department Bidar. Details of E-Procurment Tender as below:
1) Tender Reference No and date: No.DTWO/BIDAR/FOODT ENDER/CR.10/2025-26. **Dated: 15.12.2025,** 2) Amount put to Tender: **(Rs:487.81 In lakhs),** 3) EMD Amount **(Rs:9.75 (Rs. In lakhs)**, 4) Pre Bid Meeting Date,Place and Time **Date: 22.12.2025 @ 11.00 am** Dist Tribal Welfare Office, Chidri-Kamathana Road Bidar. 5) Last date & Time for submission of Tender **Date:15.01.2026 @ 5.30 pm,** 6) Date & Time of opening of Technical bid **Date: 17.01.2026 @ 11.00 am** D.C Office, Gandhi Bhavan, chikkapet Bidar. (subject to change), 7) Technical bid Document Evaluation **Date: 19.01.2026 @ 11.00 am** D.C Office, Gandhi Bhavan, chikkapet Bidar. (subject to change), 8) Date & Time for opening financial bid **30.01.2026, at 11-00 AM** (Tentative), 9) Venue of opening of tenders & address for communication DISTRICT TRIBLE WELFARE OFFICER DISTRICT TRIBLE WELFARE DEPARTMENT, Dist Tribal Welfare Office Chidri-Kamathana Road Bidar. Ph.No. 08482-200058, E-mail: dtwobidar@gmail.com Interested registered and elegible Tenderer can upload Tender Documents website: http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- District Tribal Welfare Officer,
Trible Welfare Department,Chidri-Kamathana Road Bidar.

DIPR/Bidar/264/KSMC&A/2025-26

VISVESVARAYA JALA NIGAMA LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Regd. Office: Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Limited
No.148, Embassy Square, Ground Floor, Infantry Road, Bangalore - 560001, CIN No: U41000KA2016SGC097260
Ph: 080-22256688/22289966 Fax: 080-22264477
Email: mail@vjnl.in, Website: www.vjnl.in
Office of the Executive Engineer, Yettinahole Project Division No.4, Madhugiri, Tumkur Dist-572132
Ph: 08137-282112 Email-eeyetmadhugiri4@gmail.com

SI No:EE/VJNL/YHP/Div-No.4/Madhugiri/NIT-09/2025-26/ Date: 29.11.2025

Tender Notification: (Through E-procurement system)

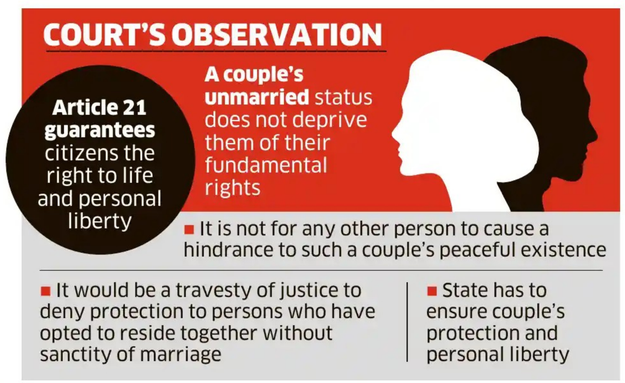
On Behalf of Managing Director, Visvesvaraya Jala Nigama Limited, Bangalore the Executive Engineer, VJNL, Yettinahole Project Division No.4, Madhugiri, Karnataka invites two tender document system from eligible Electrical contractors for the works, **1) Shifting of Existing HT LT Lines from Kolala, Kaluvedahalli, Karekallahalli and Rangapura village limits in the name of Assistant Executive Engineer, Yettinahole Project Subdivision no 05, VJNL, Koratagere in Kolala Section of koratagere subdivision under self execution basis. & Shifting Existing 11 Kv And Lt Electrical Line & 2) Pole From Ch 249.150 Km To 255.00 Km (Rayapura To Thimmasandra And Lakkaiahnapalya To Kolala Limits) Coming Under Package-25 Of Yettinahole Project** for an amount **Rs.42.00 & Rs.63.20 Lakhs** on **"Percentage basis"** through KPP-Portal. The contractor's can download and submit the completed bid documents through e- procurement website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **17.12.2025 to 31.12.2025 upto 5.30 PM, tenders shall be submitted through KPP-Portal** only. Details for EMD amount, Tender Processing fee, Tender Clarifications, Qualification of bidders, Tender Conditions etc., may be obtained through KPP-Portal.

The queries if any may be clarified from this office up to **23.12.2025, at 3.00 PM.** The bid will be opened on **02.01.2026, at 11.00 AM** in office of the Executive Engineer, VJNL, YHP Division No.04, Madhugiri The undersigned reserves all rights to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/TUM/RO-186/25-26/Oysters VJNL, YHP, Division No.4, Madhugiri

Live-in relationship not illegal or an offence: HC

Says state must ensure protection and personal liberty of such couples


COURT'S OBSERVATION
Article 21 guarantees citizens the right to life and personal liberty
A couple's unmarried status does not deprive them of their fundamental rights
It is not for any other person to cause a hindrance to such a couple's peaceful existence
It would be a travesty of justice to deny protection to persons who have opted to reside together without sanctity of marriage
State has to ensure couple's protection and personal liberty

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

In a significant judgement, the Allahabad High Court has said that Article 21 of the Indian Constitution, which guaranteed the fundamental 'Right to protection of life and personal liberty', was above the marital status, as it granted protection to a dozen live-in couples.

A single bench comprising Justice Vivek Kumar Singh said that the concept of a live-in relationship might not be acceptable to all, but it could not be said that such a relationship was an illegal one or that living together without the sanctity of marriage constituted an offence.

"Even under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, a woman who is in a domestic relationship has been provided protection, maintenance, etc. It is interesting to note that the word wife has not been used under the said Act. Thus, the female live-in partners and the children of live-in couples have been accorded adequate protection by the Parliament," the court said in its judgement delivered on Wednesday.

"Article 21 as enshrined in the Constitution of India provides for its citizens a right to life and personal liberty, with a stipulation that they shall not be deprived of it except according to a procedure established by law. The right to exercise assertion of choice is an inseggregable facet of liberty and dignity. Once an individual, who is a major, has chosen his/her partner, it is not for any other person, be it a family member, to object and cause a hindrance to their peaceful existence," it added.

The court said that it was for the state at this juncture to ensure their protection and their personal liberty.

"It would be a travesty of justice in case protection is denied to persons who have opted to reside together without the sanctity of marriage, and such persons have to face dire consequences at the hands of persons from whom protection is sought," it said.

Tenants murder landlady over pending rent, stuff body in bag

LUCKNOW, DHNS

A couple in Ghaziabad, near Delhi, allegedly murdered their landlady and packed her body in a suitcase after chopping it into pieces when she demanded payment of the pending rent.

The incident happened on Wednesday night, when the landlady, identified as Deepshikha Sharma, went to the rented flat at Aura Chimera Society in Rajnagar Extension area in the town.

The accused, identified as Ajai Gupta and his wife Akriti Gulta, owed Rs 90 thousand in rent, reports said.

According to the sources, the couple hit Deepshikha with a pressure cooker on her head and later strangled her to death. They then allegedly chopped her body into pieces and packed them in a suitcase.

Foul play

The couple, who planned to throw the suitcase in a secluded place, were confronted by Deepshikha's maid, who suspected foul play after the couple failed to tell her about the landlady's whereabouts.

The maid locked the couple in the flat and informed the cops. The police later recovered the body from the suitcase, which was hidden under a bed, sources said. The couple was arrested.

The mother of Deepshikha said that the couple had called her daughter on the pretext of paying the rent and killed her in a pre-planned manner.

She said that Deepshikha had heated arguments with the couple earlier, also over payment of outstanding rent.

SC to meet parents of man over passive euthanasia plea

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Thursday expressed its willingness to meet the parents of a 31-year-old man, lying in a comatose condition for more than 12 years, while considering his father's plea for passive euthanasia by withdrawing artificial life support.

"We want to speak to the parents of the man on January 13 and for the counsel to study the report so that they can assist the court in passing final orders," a bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and K V Viswanathan said.

The court was hearing a miscellaneous application of the father seeking to remove all life-sustaining treatment from his son.

The bench also went through the report of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) concerning the examination of the 32-year-old man, who has remained in a vegetative state for the past 12 years after falling from a building. The bench observed that it is a "sad report" and the boy can't continue to live like this.

The AIIMS, New Delhi -- after being ordered by the top court -- in its secondary report examined the medical history, neurological examination and other observations etc.

Top court records 'happy ending' as Kerala VC row resolved

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Thursday noted that the Kerala governor and the state government had agreed on names for the appointment of vice chancellors of APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University and Kerala University of Digital Sciences.

Terming it "a very happy ending to this saga", a bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and KV Viswanathan said that the consensus had eluded both the government and the chancellor until now. "When the doors of this court were knocked, we were deeply concerned about the plight of the students, their parents, and the teaching and non-teaching staff... our concern was for all the stakeholders. They were unfortunately caught in the crossfire," the bench said.

The court appointed former Supreme Court judge Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia and entrusted him with the task of recommending at least three names for vice chancellor in two universities.

"Today, we are happy to record that both the chancellor and the government have, in one voice, reported that the appointments to the post of vice chancellors in the two universities have been made from the list of empanelled candidates. We place on record our gratitude for the good office that Justice Dhulia has brought to bear on this matter. Our endeavour was to ensure that institutions have a permanent head," the SC said.

At the outset, Attorney General R Venkataramani, appearing for the governor, informed the bench that the matter had been resolved and duly communicated to the committee headed by Justice Dhulia.

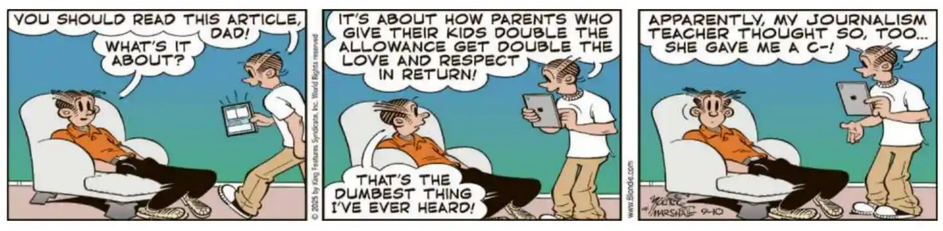
The court said that a university cannot function without a vice chancellor, who plays a crucial role, and emphasised that this case illustrates how timely and decisive intervention can go a long way in protecting the rights of citizens.

On December 11, noting the continuous deadlock between Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Governor-cum-Chancellor Rajendra Arlekar, the court directed panel headed by Justice Dhulia to recommend one name each for the appointment of VCs in two technical universities.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie


YOU SHOULD READ THIS ARTICLE, DAD!
WHAT'S IT ABOUT?
IT'S ABOUT HOW PARENTS WHO GIVE THEIR KIDS DOUBLE THE ALLOWANCE GET DOUBLE THE LOVE AND RESPECT IN RETURN!
THAT'S THE DUMBEST THING I'VE EVER HEARD!
APPARENTLY, MY JOURNALISM TEACHER THOUGHT SO, TOO... SHE GAVE ME A C-!

Hagar The Horrible

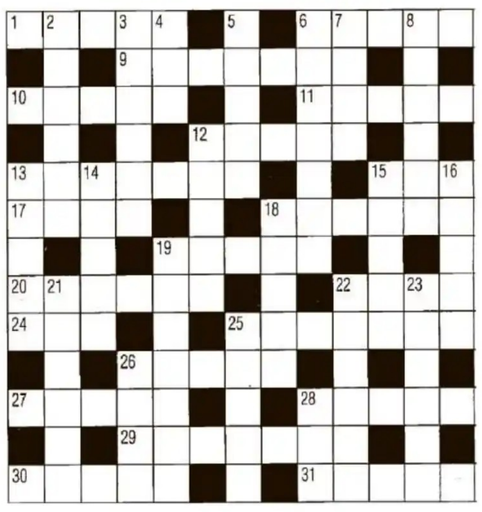
Beetle Bailey

DID YOU UPSET COOKIE?
HIS DINNER WAS DISGUSTING
YOU KNOW HOW SENSITIVE HE IS ABOUT CRITICISM
I'M THE ONE WITH THE UPSET STOMACH!!
MORT+ GREG WALKER

Peanuts

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12313



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 The swimmer's silver or bronze (5)
6 People with land (5)
9 The chap grew old but could still run! (7)
10 Only one place is perfect (5)
11 It's smart to be exceptionally fit in New York (5)
12 It grows on a rugged cape to the north (5)
13 "Sir" beat Ron to a pulp! (7)
15 The little woman (3)
17 Unsealed letters from Schopenhauer (4)
18 A good month, note, with the National Theatre (6)
19 City I love to sing about (5)
20 Mind-broadening letter to a composer (6)
22 A lady may appear quite wrapped up in it (4)
24 Cry because Hetty's no teetotaller? (3)
25 A good read? Don't you believe it! (7)
26 With a cut? (5)
27 She can treat a rash (5)
28 One sets out to book them, perhaps (5)
29 Shelters in a Solent storm! (4-3)
30 Having run only slowly, I'd taken the lead! (5)
31 It can lead us to finish in penury (5)

DOWN
2 The policeman carped unreasonably (6)
3 A man holding up a weight for a woman (6)
4 Diminutive male forename (3)
5 It shows where to insert a key in a vehicle (5)
6 Threatens men playing cards (7)
7 The brooding deity? (4)
8 Profit on a ticket (6)
12 Like the servitude of a penman? (5)
13 Stall a couple out of love (5)
14 Return to the Republic some day (5)
15 Strait I mean to rediscover (5)
16 Mark can take a bit of a pasting (5)
18 Land in the can (5)
19 Sat and fished? (7)
21 Payment returned to the drawer (6)
22 Emphasise the pressure (6)
23 He's going from bad to worse! (6)
25 To be honest, gives a fathead social status (5)
26 The demand for ales, maybe (4)
28 Thus a bit of luck brings very little money! (3)

ACROSS
1 Channel (5)
6 Musical drama (5)
9 Regain (7)
10 Opponent (5)
11 Allowance (5)
12 Perspire (5)
13 Crustaceans (7)
15 Offer (3)
17 Of the ears (4)
18 Separate (6)
19 Reasoning (5)
20 European sea (6)
22 Unaccompanied (4)
24 Crack team (3)
25 Skin pigment (7)
26 Chose (5)
27 Party, informally (5)
28 Song (5)
29 Hold (7)
30 Pale (5)
31 Intended (5)

DOWN
2 Stature (6)
3 Very sad (6)
4 Slippery fish (3)
5 Stores (5)
6 Of living matter (7)
7 Saucy (4)
8 Rotting (6)
12 Cutlery item (5)
13 Settees (5)
14 Telephones (5)
15 Buffalo (5)
16 Devil (5)
18 Cubed (5)
19 Satire (7)
21 Artists' stands (6)
22 Salty (6)
23 Hear (6)
25 Encounters (5)
26 Formerly (4)
28 Dull (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12312

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 4, F-locks 7, Manitoba 8, Curate 10, Stea-M 13, Fe-NS 14, Herr 15, Sirs 16, CAB 17, Scar 19, A-go-g 21, Forgetful 23, Cane 24, Do-es 26, Orb 27, Atom 29, Twos 32, St.-'un 33, Point 34, Listen 35, Notebook 36, Hearty.
DOWN: 1, Smash 2, Enter 3, Item 4, Face-r 5, Oars 6, Kitbag 9, Un-safe 11, Tea 12, Ar-son 13, Fi-red on 15, Sag 16, Col. 18, Cr-e-ate 20, Gusto 21, Fab 22, Tom 23, Cruise 25, Son 28, Tunny 30, Widow 31, Stoke 32, Star 33, Peer.

EASY
ACROSS: 4, Vacate 7, Broccoli 8, Spring 10, Train 13, Vile 14, Sing 15, Beta 16, Via 17, Lean 19, Gain 21, Fortitude 23, Poor 24, Seed 26, Cog 27, Oboe 29, Lead 32, Wren 33, Verge 34, Devise 35, Charades 36, Stitch.
DOWN: 1, Abuts 2, Woman 3, Scan 4, Visit 5, Core 6, Tune in 9, Plague 11, Rib 12, Igloo 13, Venison 15, Bat 16, Vie 18, Errors 20, Addle 21, Fog 22, Tee 23, Potent 25, Hag 28, Beech 30, Erode 31, Dense 32, Wilt 33, Verb.

◆SU-DO-KU-6781◆

	3				8	4		
			5		9	1		
1	5			7		6		
					7			8
	4		3		1		2	
7			4					
		7		1			5	4
		1	7		2			
		9	8				1	

hard

4	8	6	5	9	7	1	2	3
3	2	9	1	6	4	5	8	7
7	5	1	3	8	2	4	9	6
5	6	4	7	1	8	9	3	2
8	9	2	4	3	6	7	5	1
1	3	7	2	5	9	6	4	8
6	1	8	9	4	3	2	7	5
2	4	3	6	7	5	8	1	9
9	7	5	8	2	1	3	6	4

SOLUTION TO 6780

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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S1 O1 U1 F4 R1 R1 R1		RACK 1
H4 M3 S1 I1 I1 A1 F4	3rd Letter Double	RACK 2
E1 U1 M3 R1 S1 A1 E1	Double Word Score	RACK 3
E1 E1 E1 L1 P3 S1 Y4	Triple Word Score	RACK 4

PAR SCOR 80-90
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

B3 A1 S1 S1 O1 O1 N1	RACK 1 =	59
F4 A1 I1 N1 T1 E1 D2	RACK 2 =	83
P3 A1 P3 E1 R1 E1 D2	RACK 3 =	74
U1 P3 S1 T1 A1 T1 E1	RACK 4 =	59
PAR SCORE 180-190	JUDD'S TOTAL	275

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

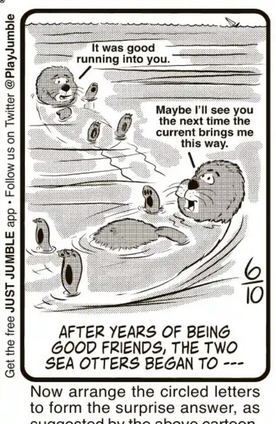
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LIQTU

ADAHE

OEPRDW

TFRAEH


It was good running into you.
Maybe I'll see you the next time the current brings me this way.
6/10
AFTER YEARS OF BEING GOOD FRIENDS, THE TWO SEA OTTERS BEGAN TO ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: _____ _____ (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: DRESS PARKA KNIGHT BORROW
Answer: The first letter of the alphabet had been a little sad and lonely, but now — HE WAS A-OK

HITORI-3235

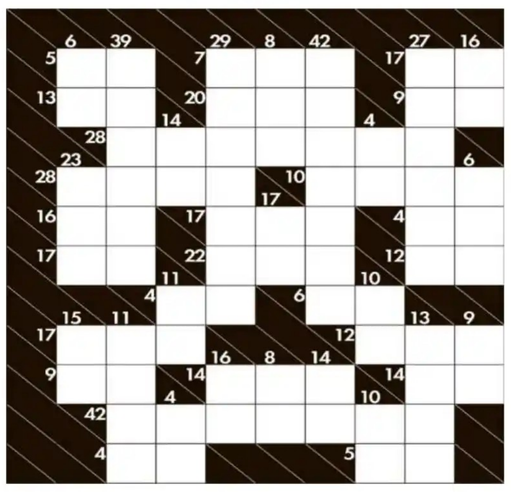
2	6	4	5	1	2	8	3
4	2	2	6	5	3	7	5
1	7	8	4	6	2	3	2
1	4	2	3	8	7	5	6
2	5	1	6	1	5	6	4
3	1	6	5	7	6	2	8
6	5	7	2	4	6	1	1
6	2	3	7	5	8	1	2

SOLUTION TO 3234

7	3	5	6	■	4	1	■
■	4	■	3	1	■	6	2
2	■	6	1	8	7	■	4
3	7	■	4	■	2	8	1
■	6	8	■	2	■	4	3
8	■	1	2	4	3	5	■
1	2	■	8	6	■	7	5
■	1	3	7	■	6	2	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

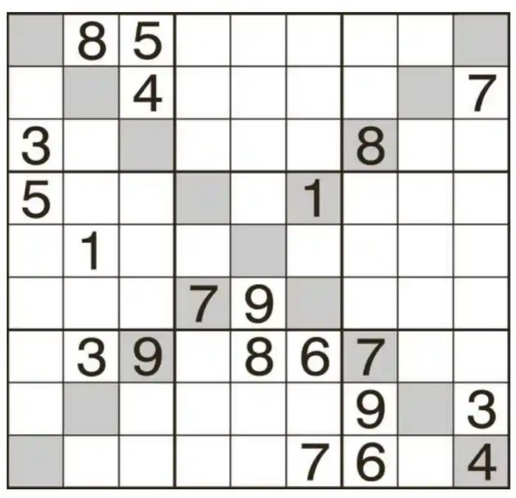
KAKURO- 3235



SOLUTION TO 3234

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3770



SOLUTION TO 3769

8	9	4	5	6	3	1	7	2
6	5	7	8	1	2	3	9	4
3	2	1	9	7	4	6	5	8
2	1	9	7	8	5	4	3	6
5	7	3	2	4	6	8	1	9
4	8	6	1	3	9	5	2	7
1	6	8	3	9	7	2	4	5
9	3	5	4	2	8	7	6	1
7	4	2	6	5	1	9	8	3

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

US to sell arms worth over $11 bn to Taiwan

China criticises plans to sell advanced weapons

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI

The Trump administration has announced a massive package of arms sales to Taiwan valued at more than $11 billion that includes medium-range missiles, howitzers and drones, drawing an angry response from China.

The State Department announced the sales late Wednesday during a nationally televised address by President Donald Trump, who made scant mention of foreign policy issues and did not speak about China or Taiwan at all.

US-Chinese tensions have ebbed and flowed during Trump's second term, largely over trade and tariffs but also over China's increasing aggressiveness toward Taiwan, which Beijing has said must reunify with the mainland.

If approved by Congress, it would be the largest-ever US weapons package to Taiwan, exceeding the total amount of $8.4 billion in US arms sales to Taiwan during the Biden administration.

The eight arms sales agreements announced Wednesday cover 82 high-mobility artillery rocket systems, or HIMARS, and 420 Army Tactical Missile Systems, or ATACMS — similar to what the US had been providing Ukraine during the Biden administration to defend itself from Russia — worth more than $4 billion. They also include 60 self-propelled howitzer systems and related equipment worth more than $4 billion and drones valued at more than $1 billion.

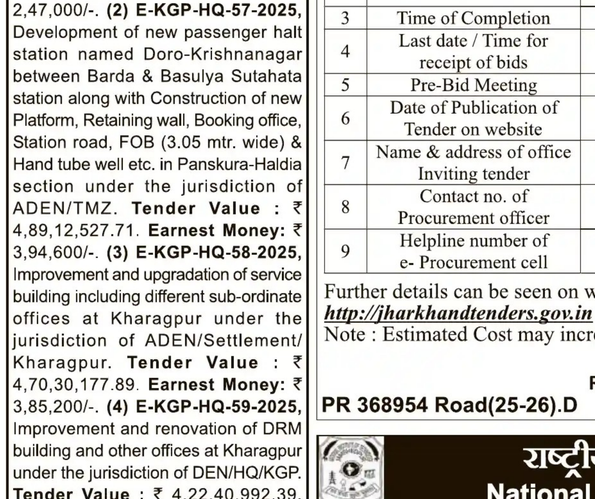
Other sales in the package include military software valued at over $1 billion, Javelin and TOW missiles worth more than $700 million, helicopter spare parts worth $96 million and refurbishment kits for Harpoon missiles worth $91 million. The eight sales agreements amount to $11.15 billion, according to Taiwan's Defence Ministry.

The State Department said the sales serve "US national, economic, and security interests."

China's Foreign Ministry attacked the move, saying it would violate diplomatic agreements between China and the US; gravely harm China's sovereignty, security and territorial integrity; and undermine regional stability.

"China firmly opposes and strongly condemns it," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun told a media briefing here, reacting to Trump's approval of the arms sale.

"This move grossly violates the one-China principle and the three China-US joint communiqués, infringes on China's sovereignty, security and territorial integrity, undermines peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait," he said.


MEGA ARMS SALE
The $11.15 billion sales agreement would be the largest-ever US arms sale to Taiwan.
82
HIMARS rocket systems and 420 ATACMS missiles (over $4 billion)
60
Self-propelled howitzers and related equipment (over $4 billion)
Drones worth more than $1 billion
Military software (over $1 billion)
Javelin and TOW missiles (over $700 million)
Helicopter spare parts and Harpoon missile refurbishment kits

US President Donald Trump delivers an address to the nation from the White House on Wednesday. REUTERS

Trump touts successes in year-end address

Secured the border, ended wars and delivered jobs: US President

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, PTI

United States President Donald Trump touted his administration's successes on immigration and in ending eight wars as he listed the accomplishments of his second term in the White House in a year-end address to the nation.

"Eleven months ago, I inherited a mess, and I'm fixing it," Trump said as he began his special prime time address to the nation on Wednesday.

Trump listed his achievements since he took office for a second term in January, including securing the border, "reverse migration", bringing prices down, ending conflicts, using tariffs to bring billions of dollars into the country, enabling job creation and cracking down on immigration.

"I've restored American strength, settled eight wars in 10 months, destroyed the Iran nuclear threat and ended the war in Gaza, bringing for the first time in 3,000 years peace to the Middle East, and secured the release of the hostages, both living and dead," Trump said. While Trump did not name the conflicts, he has claimed that he ended wars between India and Pakistan, Thailand and Cambodia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, Kosovo and Serbia, Israel and Iran, Egypt and Ethiopia, as well as Rwanda and the Congo.

US President writes partisan plaques for predecessors

Months after President Donald Trump refashioned a West Wing walkway into what he calls the Presidential Walk of Fame, new plaques have been added with partisan language, AP/PTI reports from Washington.

Written in a Trumpian style, the plaques range from "Sleepy Joe" Biden references to portraying Republican icon Ronald Reagan as an admirer of a young Trump. The display reflects the president's effort to remake the White House in his image. Biden's plaque repeats false claims that the 46th president took office after "the most corrupt election ever" and labels him "by far, the worst president in American history." Another Democrat, Barack Obama, is described as "one of the most divisive political figures" in US history. Former president George W Bush's plaque credits him with creating department but criticises wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

India resumes visa operations in Dhaka

DHAKA, PTI: India on Thursday resumed operations at its visa application centre in Dhaka, a day after it was closed due to escalated security concerns, but shut two other identical facilities elsewhere in Bangladesh as anti-India protestors attempted to march towards Indian missions.

The Indian Visa Application Centres (IVACs) in southwestern Khulna and northwestern Rajshahi were closed citing security concerns, amid strong protest marches towards the facilities that were stopped by security personnel.

In Rajshahi, a group identifying itself as Bharityo Adhipotto Birodhi July 36 Mancha attempted to march towards the Indian Assistant High Commission. Police in riot gear blocked the protestors near the mission, leading to a brief clash when demonstrators tried to break through security barricades.

Videos circulating on social media showed protestors raising anti-India slogans.

In Khulna, the protestors under a banner called 'Unity Against Indian Hegemony' tried to march towards the Assistant High Commission of India but army soldiers and navy sailors joined hands with police to thwart the marchers.

"We had enforced a stringent vigil preventing them (protestors) from proceeding towards the mission. They left the scene after staging a 'peaceful' rally," Khulna's deputy commissioner of police Tajul Islam said.

The reports said in both the rallies the protestors accused India of sheltering deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and demanded her immediate return to be exposed to gallows.

Israel launches airstrikes in Lebanon

BEIRUT, AP/PTI: Israel carried out a series of airstrikes on southern and northeastern Lebanon on Thursday as a deadline looms to disarm the Hezbollah group.

The strikes came a day before a meeting of the committee monitoring the enforcement of a US-brokered ceasefire. It will be the second meeting of the mechanism after Israel and Lebanon appointed civilian members to a previously military-only committee.

India is potential partner in supply chain security: US

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, PTI

The US views India as a "highly strategic potential partner" in supply chain security-related efforts and welcomes the opportunity to engage with the country, following New Delhi's exclusion from a recently launched Washington-led initiative on silicon supply chain.

Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs Jacob Helberg told reporters on Wednesday at a Foreign Press Centre briefing that the US is having "ongoing conversations" with India about ways of "deepening our economic security collaboration."

Last week, the US launched 'Pax Silica', a strategic initiative to build a secure, prosperous, and innovation-driven silicon supply chain—from critical minerals and energy inputs to advanced manufacturing, semiconductors, AI infrastructure, and logistics.

The initiative includes Japan, South Korea, Singapore, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and Australia. It, however, did not include India. With the exception of India, all other Quad countries - Japan, Australia and the US - are part of the new initiative.

Helberg acknowledged that there has been "a lot of speculation" behind India not being included in Pax Silica and denied that there was any link between Delhi's exclusion and current tensions with Washington.

"So my understanding is that there was a lot of speculation behind India not participating in the Pax Silica Summit," Helberg said in response to a question on why India was not included in the Pax Silica initiative and whether it was due to political tensions between the two sides.

"I want to be clear that the conversations between the United States and India pertaining to trade arrangements are a completely separate and parallel track to our discussions on supply chain security. We are not conflating those two things. We view India as a highly strategic potential partner on supply chain security-related efforts, and we welcome the opportunity to engage with them," he said.

Helberg added that he is in "nearly daily communication" with interlocutors in Delhi.

TACKLING MISOGYNY

UK schoolboys to be taught respect for girls

LONDON, AFP

UK teachers will be trained to tackle misogyny in the classroom under a new strategy aimed at halving violence against women and girls over the next decade, a minister told parliament Thursday.

The new strategy would deploy "the full power of the state" to introduce a joined-up approach to cracking down on violence against women and girls, safeguarding minister Jess Phillips told MPs.

The £20 million plan comes as the latest statistics showed over 40 per cent of young men held a positive view of so-called manosphere influencer Andrew Tate, a government statement said, citing research by NGO Hope Not Hate.

Over the last year alone, one in every eight women was a victim of domestic abuse, sexual assault or stalking, said Phillips. "For too long the scale of violence against women and girls has been treated as a fact of life in our country," she added. Under the strategy, all secondary schools in England will have to teach students about healthy relationships.

Teachers will receive specialist training to talk to pupils about issues such as consent and the dangers of sharing intimate images. The most worrying attitudes would be tackled early, with schools able to send high-risk individuals for support focused on challenging misogyny. Phillips said the battle would no longer be left to crime-fighting departments alone to tackle in isolation.

Taking the fight into classrooms would help "stop the violence before it starts", she said, adding "the proliferation of content with the potential to poison young minds" had never been greater. "Our strategy tackles radicalisation and confronts concerning behaviour long before it spirals into abuse or violence" she said.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Bill Gates appears with a woman, whose identity has been obscured, in this image from the Epstein estate released by House Oversight Committee Democrats in Washington DC on Thursday. REUTERS

New photo dump fuels Capitol Hill push on Epstein files release

▸ US House Democrats on Thursday published a fresh batch of photographs from Jeffrey Epstein's estate, stepping up pressure on Donald Trump's administration on the eve of its deadline to release federal files on the late financier and convicted sex offender, AFP reports from Washington.

The 68 images — shared without added context — are part of a much larger cache that Congress obtained from Epstein's estate and has been drip-feeding to the public in recent days, stoking political drama in Washington. Among the newly released photos are shots of passports and identity documents from multiple countries, most of the personal details redacted. Several documents are marked "female," including passports from places such as Ukraine and Russia, and a number of faces in the images are obscured to protect identities. Other photographs include two images showing public intellectual Noam Chomsky seated with Epstein on what appears to be an aircraft, and pictures of Bill Gates posing beside a woman whose face is blurred. The cache also includes images of filmmaker Woody Allen and former Trump strategist Steve Bannon.

US strikes on drug boat kill 4

▸ The US military said that it attacked a boat accused of smuggling drugs in the eastern Pacific Ocean, killing four people on the same day the House rejected efforts to limit President Donald Trump's power to use military force against drug cartels, AP/PTI reports from Washington.

US Southern Command stated on social media that the vessel was operated by narco-terrorists along a known trafficking route. The military didn't provide evidence behind the allegations but posted a video of a boat moving through water before there was an explosion. The attack brought the total number of known boat strikes to 26 while at least 99 people have been killed.

Demonstrators move among tear gas during a protest against the EU-Mercosur free trade deal between the European Union and South American Mercosur countries in Brussels, Belgium, on Thursday. REUTERS

Oli re-elected as CPN-UML chief

▸ Ousted Nepal Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli was on Thursday elected as the CPN-UML's chairman for the third consecutive term with a two-thirds majority, PTI reports from Kathmandu.

Oli was elected the Communist Party of Nepal- Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) chairman in a contest held three months after his government was forced to resign following a student-led protest. During the 11th general convention of the party that concluded on Thursday, Oli secured 1,663 votes against his opponent Ishwor Pokharel, who received 584 votes, according to party sources. Pokharel, 71, had received the backing of former President Bidya Devi Bhandari, his rival in the presidential election.

FBI Dy Director Bongino to resign

▸ FBI Deputy Director Dan Bongino said he will resign from the bureau next month, ending a brief and tumultuous tenure in which he clashed with the Justice Department over the handling of the Jeffrey Epstein files, AP/PTI reports from Washington.

The departure, which had been expected, would be among the highest-profile resignations of the Trump administration. It comes as FBI leadership has been buffeted by criticism over Director Kash Patel's use of a government plane for personal purposes and social media posts about active investigations. Bongino was an unconventional pick for the No 2 job, a position that historically has entailed oversight of the bureau's day-to-day operations and typically has been held by a career agent.

Albanian lawmakers clash during a protest against the government inside the parliament in Tirana on Thursday. REUTERS

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

Tender Notice No. : e-Tender/2025/42. For and on behalf of President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur-721301 invites e-Tender for the following works before 15:00hrs. on the date mentioned against items and will be opened at 15:30 hrs. **Sl. No., Tender No. & Description of Works** are as follows : **(1) E-KGP-HQ-56-2025,** Development of new passenger halt station named Kalikakhali between Lavan Satyagrah Smarak P.H. & Deshapran station along with Construction of new Platform, Retaining wall, Booking office, Station road & Hand tube well etc. in Tamluk-Digha section under the jurisdiction of ADEN/TMZ. **Tender Value :** ₹ 1,93,96,777.80. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,47,000/-. **(2) E-KGP-HQ-57-2025,** Development of new passenger halt station named Doro-Krishnanagar between Barda & Basulya Sutahata station along with Construction of new Platform, Retaining wall, Booking office, Station road, FOB (3.05 mtr. wide) & Hand tube well etc. in Panskura-Haldia section under the jurisdiction of ADEN/TMZ. **Tender Value :** ₹ 4,89,12,527.71. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 3,94,600/-. **(3) E-KGP-HQ-58-2025,** Improvement and upgradation of service building including different sub-ordinate offices at Kharagpur under the jurisdiction of ADEN/Settlement/ Kharagpur. **Tender Value :** ₹ 4,70,30,177.89. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 3,85,200/-. **(4) E-KGP-HQ-59-2025,** Improvement and renovation of DRM building and other offices at Kharagpur under the jurisdiction of DEN/HQ/KGP. **Tender Value :** ₹ 4,22,40,992.39. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 3,61,200/-. **Tender Document Cost :** ₹ 0 for each. **Date of Opening :** 02.01.2026 for each. **Completion Period of the work :** 12 months for Sl. No. 1 & 2 each and 18 months for Sl. No. 3 & 4 each. **Bidding Start Date:** For Sl. No. 1 to 4 from 19.12.2025 and up to 15:00 hrs. on 02.01.2026. Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/ descriptions/specifications of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these works will be accepted. **N.B.:** Prospective bidders may regularly visit **"www.ireps. gov.in"** to participate in all tenders.

(PR-972)

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
R.C.D. , ROAD DIVISION, SAHIBGANJ

e- Procurement Notice

e-Tender Reference no.- RCD/SAHIBGANJ/1089/2025-26
Dated : 18.12.2025

1	Name of Work	Widening and Strengthening/Reconstruction work of Dighi More (NH-80) to Malin Resore More (NH-80) via Ranigram Road (Total Length-8.176 Km) under Road Division, Sahibganj for the year 2025-26
2 (a)	Estimated Cost (Rs)	Rs. 35,20,24,012.00 (Rupees Thirty Five Crore Twenty Lakh Twenty Four Thousand Twelve and Zero Paise) Only.
(b)	Bid Security (Rs)	35,21,000.00 (Rupees Thirty Five Lakh and Twenty One Thousand) Only.
3	Time of Completion	15 (Fifteen) Months
4	Last date / Time for receipt of bids	28.01.2026 upto 12.00 Noon
5	Pre-Bid Meeting	06.01.2026 from 03.00 P.M.
6	Date of Publication of Tender on website	30.12.2025 from 10.30 A.M.
7	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Executive Engineer, R.C.D. Road Division, Sahibganj
8	Contact no. of Procurement officer	8271102250
9	Helpline number of e- Procurement cell	0651 - 2401010

Further details can be seen on website
http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in
Note : Estimated Cost may increase or decrease

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
ROAD CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT
ROAD DIVISION, SAHIBGANJ

PR 368954 Road(25-26).D

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Auction Notice
No.:- Com/Lease/SLR/e-Auction/ DNR/25/8

The Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), East Central Railway, Danapur for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Auction for following works:-

1. Name of the work: e-Auction, for leasing of Parcel space of 3.9/4 tonne of SLRs on per trip basis on payment of lumpsum freight for loading of parcels, **2. Period of contract:** 03 (Three) years., **3. Catalogue No.**: DNR-PARCEL-25-08, **4. Lot No.**: 22361-SLR-F1-RJPB-NDLS-25-1, 12792-SLR-F1-DNR-SC-25-1, 12391-SLR-F1-RGD-NDLS-25-1, 13237-SLR-F1-PNBE-KOTA-25-1,12296-SLR-F1-DNR-SMVB-25-1 **5. Date & Time fixed for E-Auction:** 12:00 hrs to 13.10 hrs. on 30.12.2025 (Initial Cooling Off Period is 30 minutes & Successive Lot Closing interval is 10 minutes.) Lot-wise closing Time can be viewed in e-Auction module of IREPS, **6. Website where complete details of E-Auction is available: www.ireps.gov.in.**

Divisional Railway Manager (Commml.)
East Central Railway, Danapur

PR/1477/DNR/COMML/EAN/25-26/36

राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान जमशेदपुर
National Institute of Technology Jamshedpur
(शिक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के अधीन राष्ट्रीय महत्व का संस्थान)
(An Institute of National Importance under Ministry of Education, Government of India)

Advt. No. NITJSR/ESS/CD/2025/2825 **Dated: 01/12/2025**

Advertisement No. 07/2025
Advertisement for the post of Professor

Online Applications are invited for the post of Professor, Pay Level 14A as per 7th CPC in the various departments under 4 Tier flexible faculty cadre structure from Indian Nationals. Reservation for SC/ST/OBC/EWS/PWD candidates will be applicable as per the norms of Government of India. Please visit Institute website https://www.nitjsr.ac.in for details. Online application form is available from 02nd December 2025 to 31st December 2025.

Sd/-
Registrar

PR 368948 Human Resource Developement(25-26).D

Centre tables Bill in LS to create single framework for securities

Number of Sebi members to be increased from 9 to 15

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday introduced the Securities Markets Code Bill, 2025, in the Lok Sabha that seeks to overhaul and consolidate the laws related to the securities markets into a single framework from the current three different overlapping Acts.

The new Code seeks to rationalise and replace the three securities laws — Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956; Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992; and Depositories Act, 1996.

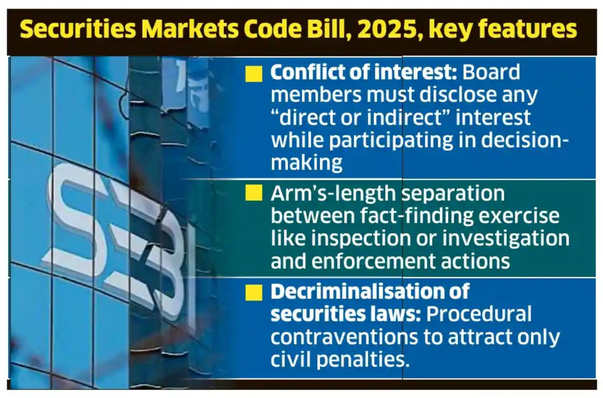
After introducing the Bill in the House, Sitharaman proposed to refer it to the Parliamentary Standing Committee of Finance for further scrutiny.

The Code proposes to expand the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) composition from the current 9 members to 15 members. It seeks to eliminate conflict of interest by requiring the members of the Board to disclose any "direct or indirect" interest while participating in decision-making.

The new regulation would empower Sebi to delegate some part of its registration function to market infrastructure institutions and self-regulatory organisations. It also has enabling provision for Sebi to establish a Regulatory Sandbox to facilitate innovation in financial products, contracts and services.

To ease compliance, the Code proposes converting minor criminal and procedural contraventions into civil penalties.

Securities Markets Code Bill, 2025, key features



- **Conflict of interest:** Board members must disclose any "direct or indirect" interest while participating in decision-making
- Arm's-length separation between fact-finding exercise like inspection or investigation and enforcement actions
- **Decriminalisation of securities laws:** Procedural contraventions to attract only civil penalties.

It has proposed to divide the contraventions into two separate categories. The first category of contraventions relate to violations of prohibition of fraudulent and unfair practices, which should not attract criminal liability. Contraventions that affect market integrity and public interest might be treated as a criminal offence, in addition to attracting civil penalties.

According to a source, the intent of the Code is to provide a modern statutory framework for investor protection and capital mobilisation. "A review of this scale in securities markets is happening for the first time, which will facilitate access to the investor and enhance capital mobilisation at a scale, commensurate with the emerging needs of the fast-growing Indian economy," the source said.

The new Code will replace the laws enacted decades ago. The three Acts have many overlapping and redundant provisions. The legislative architecture provided, therein, warranted a review and adaptation to evolving regulatory practices, latest developments in technology and changing character of markets growing in scale and complexity, the source added.

The announcement in regards to consolidation and rationalisation of the securities laws were made in the Union Budget 2021.

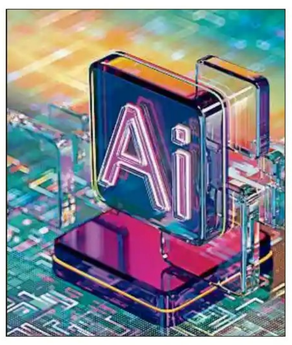
The Code endeavours to build a principle-based legislative framework to reduce compliance burden, improve regulatory governance and enhance dynamism of the technology driven securities markets.

To enhance investment climate and market-making, the Code provides an enabling framework for inter-regulatory coordination, wherein Sebi in consultation with other regulatory authority concerned may make regulations to enable a seamless process for listing of 'other regulated instruments' and to ensure better coordination among Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs) in terms of interoperability of any platform.

AI, data engineers to see 10-12% salary growth in 2026

Those with niche talent likely to see significant rise in pay packages

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS



Amid the AI boom, professionals with AI-first capabilities, data engineers and cybersecurity specialists will be in demand and witness 10-12% salary growth in 2026. With IT services companies and startups focusing on AI-driven growth, these professionals will be so sought-after that they can command a significant rise in salaries, according to staffing firms. Currently, employees with niche skills draw a salary in the Rs 30 lakh-38 lakh range, and some AI engineers/scientists take home about Rs 60 lakh per annum.

Though salary growth across sectors will be moderate in 2026, people with niche talent are likely to see a significant increase in pay packages. "Overall, salary growth percentage in 2026 is expected to remain largely similar to 2025, indicating a stabilisation phase, rather than a broad-based escalation. The implementation of labour codes is increasing the overall cost of employment for organisations, which may impact salary hikes. Companies are moving away from uniform increments and are instead linking compensation increases to business performance and critical skill availability," CIEL HR MD and CEO Aditya Narayan Mishra said.

However, select sectors are likely to see above-average salary growth. Clean energy, semiconductor, NBFCs, defence & aerospace, FMCG and GCCs are expected to lead, supported by investment momentum and ongoing digital transformation. "At a role level, skills such as data science, AI/ML, full-stack development, cybersecurity, investment banking, real estate advisory, and systems engineering will continue to command premium compensation, with increases outpacing the market average," he added.

According to him, GCCs and NBFCs are expected to see the strongest salary growth. NLB Services CEO Sachin Alug said increments in 2025 largely ranged between 6% and 8%, and that they anticipate 8-10% growth in 2026, driven by demand for high-impact digital and business transformation roles, rather than volume hiring.

While infrastructure and real estate are leading with hikes close to 11%, automotive and NBFCs are near 10% on the back of EV investments and credit growth. "Manufacturing, GCCs and consumer sectors are clustered around 9-9.5%, reflecting steady demand for specialised roles. Banking is more selective at roughly 8.5 to 9% with higher rewards for digital, risk and compliance talent, while IT services lag at 7-8%, as global demand and automation weigh on broad-based hikes. In 2026, pay is no longer about across-the-board increases, but about paying up for scarce skills that drive productivity and resilience," Apna.co CEO-Jobs Marketplace Kartik Narayan said.

HCLTech to buy HPE's telco solutions biz for Rs 1,400 cr

BENGALURU, DHNS

Tech company HCLTech on Thursday announced that it will acquire Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE's) Telco Solutions business for over Rs 1,400 crore ($160 million). This includes $15 million of incentives based upon FY25 performance, the company said in a BSE filing.

HCLTech will leverage the expanded engineering capability and the acquired intellectual property to accelerate 5G network transformation, network cloudification and Network as a Service (NaaS), among others.

Following an earlier transaction with HPE in 2024, HCLTech will, through this new acquisition agreement, further gain industry-leading intellectual property (IP), product engineering and R&D talent, and client relationships with top global Communication Service Providers (CSPs).

Telco Solutions supports more than 1 billion devices through its solutions, and it was formerly part of HPE's Communications Technology Group (CTG), from which HCLTech acquired certain assets in 2024.

The company said it will leverage this expanded capability to accelerate network transformation, NaaS and AI-led autonomous networking. As part of this agreement, about 1,500 engineering and telecom specialists from 39 countries will join HCLTech's global delivery team to help scale the business.

HCLTech Chief Growth Officer and Global Head of Telecom, Media, Publishing & Entertainment and Technology (TMT) Anil Ganjoo said, "Integrating this highly-skilled HPE team and their market-proven IP strengthens our product-aligned model and accelerates our shift toward higher-value, IP-led services and non-linear growth."

Cognizant's AI lab helps clients turn ideas into solutions quicker

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

From measuring ideas, researching to prototyping and simulating, Cognizant's new AI Lab in Bengaluru will maximise human potential by collaborating with machines. The new lab will help enterprises turn ideas into scalable solutions faster with the help of AI.

Last week, Cognizant opened its India AI Lab and Cognizant Moment Studio in Bengaluru to collaborate with clients and partners to help them move from proof-of-concept to scaled adoption with solutions that are quicker and at the same time usable.

On Thursday, Cognizant Chief AI Officer Babak Hodjat explained the use of multi-agent systems. What takes weeks and even months (from PoCs to solution/production), are now done in a couple of hours, thanks to AI.

"This interactive approach showcases multi-objective human-AI brainstorming where AI serves as a strategic thought partner," Hodjat said.

The India AI Lab extends Cognizant's AI Lab in San Francisco, which was recently granted its 61st US patent. About 40 employees specialised in design and AI will work in the lab, apart from AI scientists and strategists who will build what is required for clients.

Babak Hodjat

Interestingly, AI also helps save at least 30% of clients' time. The new AI lab focuses across sectors from healthcare to banking. Hodjat also explained how AI measures ideas of humans and generates many ideas within a few minutes. In case the uncertainty of an agent falls below a threshold, then human intervention or input is called for.

IT firms are now focusing on multi-agent systems where AI agents work together and collaborate to solve complex problems. What might be difficult for a single agent, is now possible with multi-agents.

Cognizant CEO Ravi Kumar S said the company plays a pivotal role in enterprise AI by acting as an AI builder. "With Agentic AI now essential to enterprise transformation, the real breakthroughs will come from pairing multi-agent systems with trustworthy, human-centered design. Our India AI Lab and Cognizant Moment Studio in Bengaluru offer research in agentic architectures, AI trust and next-generation user experience to create intelligent systems that support dependable decision-making for enterprises," he added.

ISMA seeks over Rs 10 per kg increase in sugar MSP

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Sugar mills lobby ISMA on Thursday urged the government to increase the minimum selling price (MSP) of sugar to Rs 41.66 per kg from the current Rs 31 per kg citing jump in production costs and higher payouts to cane farmers.

ISMA president Gautam Goel said sugar MSP was last revised in 2019. "While the MSP has remained unchanged at Rs 31 per kg since its last revision in early 2019, the cost of production has risen sharply due to continuous increases in cane prices and other costs," Goel said at ISMA's AGM.

He pointed out that sugarcane's fair and remunerative price (FRP) has increased to Rs 355 per quintal from Rs 275 per quintal in 2019-20. He claimed that sugar production for the current sugar season stood at Rs 41.66 per kg.

Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra said the government is actively considering the proposal to raise sugar MSP.

Worst behind airline after op disruption, says IndiGo CEO

MUMBAI, PTI: IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers told employees that the airline has stabilised operations after a period of disruption, saying the worst was over and that the country's largest airline was now focused on resilience, a root-cause review and rebuilding.

In a video message to staff, Elbers said IndiGo has restored most of its flight network following the disruptions.

In early December, the airline cancelled hundreds of flights due to planning issues linked to new pilot duty rules, crew shortages, winter weather and operational bottlenecks. The cancellations impacted tens of thousands of travellers and triggered regulatory scrutiny, schedule cuts and a temporary suspension of certain pilot duty norms to stabilise operations.

Since then, IndiGo has gradually restored services, operating 2,200 flights on Thursday and working to normalise its network, while reviewing causes and compensating customers.

"Through the storm, we

Pieter Elbers

are finding our wings again. The worst is behind us," Elbers said.

He said the past two weeks had been "very challenging" but credited pilots, cabin crew, airport teams, operations control and customer service staff for restoring the network to around 2,200 flights a day.

"On December 9, I shared the stabilisation of IndiGo's operation. After that, we restored our network to 2,200 flights today," he said. "Given our scale and complexity, recovering from such a situation in a short time is a testament to our teamwork and the strength of our operating principles."

The airline, he said, is now focused on three things—resilience, root cause analysis, and rebuilding.

The CEO said similar disruptions had affected large airlines globally and those lessons would be used to strengthen IndiGo's systems.

Rupee rises 18 p to 90.20/$

MUMBAI, PTI: The rupee appreciated 18 paise against the US dollar to settle at 90.20 on Thursday, despite the broad strength of the American currency in the overseas market on possible intervention by RBI.

Forex traders said Brent crude oil prices hovering near $59 per barrel supported the domestic unit at lower levels. However, a recovery in the dollar index and weak domestic markets capped sharp gains.

At the interbank forex, the rupee opened at 90.35 against the dollar, then recovered some lost ground to touch an intra-day high of 90.04, registering a 34 paise gain from its previous close. On Wednesday, it recovered 55 paise from its all-time low to close at 90.38.

Accenture revenue up 6% at $18.7 bn

BENGALURU, DHNS: IT services company Accenture on Thursday beat Street estimates and posted a 6% increase in its revenues at $18.74 billion for the quarter ended November 2025, owing to its massive AI boost. The company's revenues were at the top of its guided range of $18.1 billion to $18.75 billion.

The company's first quarter of fiscal year runs from September 1 to November 30. Its new bookings during the first quarter were $20.94 billion, an increase of 12% in US dollars, compared to the first quarter of fiscal 2025. Its consulting new bookings stood at $9.88 billion, and managed services new bookings were at $11.06 billion.

Its GAAP operating margin was at 15.3%, a decrease of 140 bps, compared to operating margin of 16.7% in the first quarter of last fiscal.

"I am very pleased with our $21 billion in new bookings, including 33 clients with quarterly bookings greater than $100 million. We also strengthened our leadership in advanced AI and deepened our ecosystem partnerships to help clients realize value," Accenture Chair and CEO Julie Sweet said.

The company expects its full-year revenue growth to be 2% to 5% in local currency. Accenture's Advanced AI new bookings stood at $2.2 billion. The CEO during the company's earnings call mentioned that this would be the last quarter they are sharing specific metrics for Advanced AI as "the demand for AI is both real and rapidly maturing. We've now reached a point where advanced AI is being embedded in some way across nearly everything we do. Many of our clients are focusing on moving beyond standalone proofs of concept or initiatives," she said.

Shashwat Sharma to take charge as Airtel India CEO from January 1

NEW DELHI, PTI: Bharti Airtel on Thursday said Shashwat Sharma is all set to assume charge as Managing Director and CEO of the telco with effect from January 1, 2026.

The company board has also greenlit the appointment of Vice-Chairman and MD Gopal Vittal as Executive Vice-Chairman from January 1, 2026, for five years, subject to shareholder approval.

The board cleared the appointment of CFO Soumen Ray as Group CFO and Akhil Garg as CFO (Airtel India), effective January 1, 2026.

SHARE BOOM

World-beating 55k% surge in India AI stock fuels bubble fears

BLOOMBERG

The world's best-performing stock is turning into a cautionary tale for investors chasing outsized returns from the AI boom.

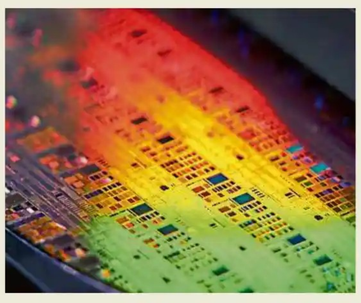
Little-known until recently even within its home market of India, RRP Semiconductor became a social-media obsession as its shares surged more than 55,000% in the 20 months through December 17 — by far the biggest gain worldwide among companies with a market value above $1 billion.

That's despite posting negative revenue in its latest results, reporting just two full-time employees in its latest annual report, and boasting only a tenuous link to the semiconductor spending boom after shifting away from real estate in early 2024. A mix of online hype, a tiny free float and India's swelling base of retail investors drove 149 straight limit-up sessions, even as exchange officials and the company itself cautioned investors.

The rally is now showing signs of strain — and regulators are taking a closer look. Sebi has begun examining the surge in RRP's shares for potential wrongdoing, according to a source. The $1.7 billion stock, recently restricted by its exchange to trading just once a week, has fallen by 6% from its November 7 peak.

While RRP's trajectory is unlikely to have much bearing on the broader AI rally that has added trillions of dollars in value to global heavyweights such as Nvidia Corp, it highlights how extreme gains have become in pockets of the market, particularly in India, where an absence of listed chipmakers has left retail investors eager for any proxy exposure to the global boom. For some observers, the case also underscores the challenge for regulators seeking to protect retail investors from speculative excess.

"Semiconductors have been really hot and people are willing to buy any name given India has limited stocks to offer," said Sonam Srivastava, founder at Wryght Research & Capital Pvt. With global worries around AI valuations, cases like RRP suggest investors aren't likely to rush into these stocks.



Exchanges and chipmakers in Asia have started to warn investors about the risks of chasing hot AI trades. In Shanghai, newly listed AI-chip startup Moore Threads Technology Co saw shares slump 13% on December 12 after flagging trading risk, though the stock remains over 500% up since its market debut earlier this month. In South Korea, SK Hynix fell after the country's main exchange raised its risk alert on December 11, after the shares more than tripled in 2025.

A BSE spokesperson said all its surveillance actions related to the stock were communicated through market circulars. RRP Electronics, owned by RRP Group founder Rajendra Chodankar, declined to comment.

RRP's transformation began in early 2024, when Chodankar struck a deal to take over G D Trading and Agencies by repaying an 80 million-rupee loan owed to its founders for equity.

On April 23, the board approved selling him and several others shares at Rs 12 each, 40% below market price. The move gave Chodankar 74.5% ownership and reduced the founders' stake to under 2%. The company also agreed to rename itself RRP Semiconductor.

Two months earlier, Chodankar had incorporated RRP Electronics to build an outsourced semiconductor assembly and testing facility in Maharashtra — a link that may have helped fuel the narrative around the listed company and his private venture.

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD
KALABURAGI ZONE, KALABURAGI
Office of the Chief Engineer KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, Kalaburagi

No. KWB/CE(K)/TEC/Shahapur NGR/2025-26/1203 Date : 18-12-2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER - (2nd Call)

1) Detail of Work: Providing, laying, jointing and commissioning of DI & HDPE distribution pipeline in zone-07 (Zone-04 as per AMRUT-2) at Shahapur city under AMRUT Nagarothana (Municipality Phase-4) (Lumpsum-No Variation) (Work Indent No : KUWSDB/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT418/CALL-2), 2) Amount of Estimate : **Rs.159.99 Lakhs** (Excluding GST) 3) Eligibility of Contractor : Eligible Contractors, 4) Details of Tender application amount and EMD amount : **Rs.2,40,000/-**, 5) Period of Completion : 06 (Six Months), 6) Date and Time for commencement of downloading of tender documents from the KPP portal **19-12-2025 after 13:00** hours, 7) Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting: **26-12-2025 at 11:30 hours**, 8) Last Date and Time for receipt of Tenders : **03-01-2026 upto 17:30 hours** 9) Date and Time for Opening of Tender : **05-01-2026 after 11:00 hours**, 10) Addl. information : **Office of the Chief Engineer KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone,"Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road, Telephone : 08472-220817 E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com** 11) Address of E-portal : www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Chief Engineer,
KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone,Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/868/Deshpande Publicity/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
M.I & G.W.D.D. DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR

No.EE/MID/VJP/AE-1/4702/TND/2025-26/ 3515 Date: 17.12.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department, Division Vijaypur invites work tenders through "E-Procurement" from eligible contractor on item rate Tender for following works as per KTPP Act-2000 and latest amendments.

4702 Major Works :- 1) Repairs to flood damage portion of Earthen Bund to Minor Irrigation Tank near Horti Village in Indi Taluk of Vijaypur District, **Amount put to Tender Rs.297.37 Lakhs**, EMD **Rs.4,46,000-00, Tender Period for the above work is Six(6) Months including monsoon.**

Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka E-Procurement website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home under login for Contractors from **17.12.2025.** Tenders may be submitted on electronically in E-Procurement portal up to **17-30 hrs.** on **26.12.2025.** Interested contractors information regarding works may be obtained from this office or e-Procurement helpdesk (Ph.No.080-25501216 & 080-25501227) upto **17-30 hrs.** on **24.12.2025.** Pre-bid meeting will be held on **22.12.2025** for work costing above 1.00Crore in the office of the Executive Engineer, MI&GWDD Division, Vijaypur. Tenders shall be quoted without adding GST and other details can be seen in the tender documents.

ವಾಸಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/557/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

Sd/- Executive Engineer, MI & GWDD Division, Vijayapur

WFI unveils new selection policy

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has unveiled a new selection policy that makes attendance at national camps mandatory to be eligible for national selection, bars wrestlers from training independently and mandates Olympic Games quota-winning athletes to appear in a final one-bout selection trial.

The policy was discussed and cleared at WFI's recent General Council meeting during the Nationals in Ahmedabad. It was also presented to the Sports Authority of India (SAI) for feedback and a review.

The policy has also made a provision to keep a list of reserve wrestler, who will be asked to do the national duty in case of injury to selected athlete. The policy made it clear that a failure to attend the camp will make the wrestler "ineligible to participate in the selection trials".

SELECTION POLICY

- Attendance at national camps mandatory
- Ban on wrestlers training independently
- Olympic quota winners must appear in one-bout trial
- If quota-winning wrestlers lose, he/she will be given a second chance to reclaim the quota
- Applies for selections to Olympics, Asian Games, Continental and World Championships

Black Eagle soars high

KOLKATA RESULTS

Black Eagle, from the stables of Rajender Reddy and ridden by Prashanth Thapa, won the Star Superior Cup, the feature event of the Calcutta races on Thursday.

1. Amalita Handicap - 1600M: Made In Heaven (Cheriyan Abraham) Mukesh Kumar 1; Macchiato (Vishal Bunde) 2; Lahina (Arman Khani) 3; Jet (JH Arul) 4; Not Run: Dubai Prince. Wb: Lnk, 7, 3-1/2L. T: 1:42.64. TB: Rutherford Alford. Fav: Made In Heaven.

2. Aladancer Handicap -1200M: Cashaban (Koushik Datta) Vishal Bunde 1; Surprise Fantasy (Prashant Thapa) 2; Diamond Gold (A Prakash) 3; Hermes (Mark) 4; Wb: 1/2, 1-1/4, 6-3/4L. T: 1:14.71. TB: Sabeel Shariff. Fav: Cashaban.

3. Bountiful Treasure Handicap - 1100M: Outlander (Anand Chopra) Suraj Narredu 1; La Dominate (Vaibhav) 2; Thousand Words (Azarduddin) 3; Star Concept (A Prakaash) 4; Wb: 1-1/4, 1-1/4, 1/2L. 1:05.82. TB: Javed Khan. Fav: Outlander.

4. Star Superior Cup - 1200M: Black Eagle (Faiz Adam) Prashanth Thapa 1; Pluto (Vishal Bunde) 2; Rafaello (Vaibhav) 3; Blackstone (Mark) 4; Wb: 5, Nk, 5L. T: 1:11.40. TB: Rajender Reddy. Fav: Pluto.

5. Miss X O Lence Handicap - 1400M: Anigraha (Vikram Bachawat) Hindu Singh 1; This Is Gold (Suraj Narredu) 2; Impressive Annie (R.S.Bhati) 3; Over The Line (Prashanth Thapa) 4; Wb: Lnk, 1-1/4, 1-3/4L. T: 1-25.66.. TB: Vijay Singh. Fav: This Is Gold.

6. Spats Colombo Handicap - 1400M: Sea Eagle (Shapoor Mistry) J.H.Arul 1; Cortado (Vaibhav) 2; Lineupandcollect (Vishal Bunde) 3; The Presence (A.Prakash) 4; Wb: 1/2, 2L, Shd. T: 1-27.05. TB: Neil Darashah. Fav: Cortado.

Bengaluru dividends

I race: Rs 12w; 10, 10p; Fc: Rs 17; Q: Rs 10; Shp: Rs 16; Thp: Rs 26: Tri: Rs 29 & 35;

II race: Rs 21w; 12, 10, 11p; Fc: Rs 37; Q: Rs 22; Shp: Rs 36; .Thp: Rs 28; Tri: Rs 88 & 36; Ex: Rs 152 & 92.

III race: Rs 17w; 12, 15, 32p; Fc: Rs 82; Q: Rs 39; Shp: Rs 36; Thp: Rs 57; Tri: Rs 467 & 451; Ex: Rs 1,282 & 319.

IV race: Rs 30w; 10, 10, 18p: Fc: Rs 47; Q: Rs 21; Shp: Rs 29; Thp: Rs 28; Tri: Rs 259 & 264;. Ex: Rs 3,089 & 1,426.

V race: Rs 37w; 12, 12, 15p; Fc: Rs 84; Q: Rs 34; Shp: Rs 30; Thp: Rs 43; Tri: Rs 254 & 335; Ex: Rs 1,203 & 461.

VI race: Rs 33w; 14, 11, 21p; Fc: Rs 121; Q: Rs 41; Shp: Rs 36; Thp: Rs 42; Tri: Rs 180 & 107; Ex: Rs 520 & 356.

Jackpot: Rs 6,555 (48). **Runner-up:** Rs 271 (498). **I treble:** Rs 65 (600). **II treble:** Rs 819 (92).

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

3rd Ashes: Australia vs England **(day 3, 5:30 am). LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar**.

Men's U19 Asia Cup: India vs Sri Lanka; Bangladesh vs Pakistan **(Semifinals, 10:30 am) LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 2.**

5th T20I: India vs South Africa **(7:00 pm, Friday). LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar**

3rd Test: New Zealand vs West Indies **(day 3, 3:30 am, Saturday). LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 5, FanCode**.

TENNIS

World Tennis League: Falcons vs Eagles **(3 pm)**, Hawks vs Kites **(6 pm). LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 5, FanCode**.

BADMINTON

World Tour Finals: Group Stage Session 2, Session 3 **(2:30pm) LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar**.

CRICKET FIFTH T20I

Indians look to seal the deal

Concerns mount for hosts around skipper Suryakumar & his deputy Gill

AHMEDABAD, PTI

India would hope the challenging home assignment against South Africa, which has exposed a few chinks in the armour and thrown up difficult questions on selection, ends on a positive note when the two sides clash in the fifth and final T20 International here on Friday.

After being blanked 0-2 in the Tests, India bounced back to win the ODI series and now have an unassailable 2-1 lead in the T20Is after the fourth game was abandoned due to poor weather conditions in Lucknow on Wednesday.

That India cannot lose the series should be comforting for the embattled head coach Gautam Gambhir given that the other two leaders in the camp -- skipper Suryakumar Yadav and his deputy Shubman Gill -- are battling challenges of their own with less than two months to go for the T20 World Cup.

For someone who was ranked world No.1 not so long ago, Suryakumar's form has sharply nosedived in the only format he gets to play for India.

Having gone through 18 innings in 20 matches this year without a single half-century while averaging a poor 14.20 for his 213 runs, every failure for Suryakumar is adding to the concerns of the Indian camp. Adding to it is the Gill conundrum. Gill's return as vice-captain in the T20I format might have been perceived as the one which put Suryakumar on notice a few months ago, but the former's ordinary run with the bat since his comeback and the latest injury setback only hampers the team's cause.

A toe injury suffered before the fourth T20I is set to keep Gill out of the final T20I here as India would want to take a cautious route, more so when there is a ready replacement for the top order slot in Sanju Samson.

Earlier, Gill had missed most of the two-Test affair following an injury to his neck which he suffered in the series-opener in Kolkata, something that also highlighted his busy schedule and growing list of responsibilities in Indian cricket across formats.

Samson was never the right fit in the lower order as the lowest he has batted apart from the top slot is at No.5, where the right-handed batter has scored a mere 138 runs in eight matches at an average of 23.

But each of his three T20I centuries and one half-century have come at the top slot in 14 innings, and in case of Gill's unavailability for the final game, the Kerala wicketkeeper-batter would be keen to make it count.

Aside from this, India have a settled unit with both the all-rounders, Hardik Pandya and Shivam Dube, featuring in all three games so far

In the pace attack, Arshdeep Singh is coming into his elements and is also beginning to forge a partnership with Harshit Rana with the ball.

Meanwhile, Jasprit Bumrah, who missed the third T20I due to personal reasons, joined the team's camp before the fourth match.

A batting-friendly wicket here will pose a challenge to India's best bowler in the series Varun Chakravarthy (6 wickets).

For South Africa, who have blown hot and cold particularly with the bat in the T20I series, Friday's contest will be an opportunity to end with the satisfaction of drawing a series against India.

India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, who missed the third T20I, joined the team ahead of the fourth T20I against South Africa. PTI FILE PHOTO

Scheduling: BCCI unable to see through smog?

BCCI, from Page 1

Ahead of the 2023 World Cup match between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka on November 6, both teams cancelled their practice sessions on medical advice as the AQI rose to dangerous levels in -- where else? -- Delhi.

Yet the BCCI, for all its expertise in marketing the game and making cricket the country's undisputed No. 1 sport, refuses to learn from experience when it comes to scheduling. For the eight limited-overs matches (three ODIs and five T20Is) against South Africa, the four venues chosen -- Raipur, New Chandigarh, Dharamsala and Lucknow -- are all in northern India. These venues not only endure harsh winter conditions but are also forced to contend with dangerously deteriorating air quality. For the record, the AQI in Chandigarh was "severe", it was "poor" in Dharamsala and "hazardous" in Lucknow on match days.

While this raises doubts about the BCCI's ability to produce a viable schedule, it also prompts serious questions about its commitment to player welfare. The influence the BCCI wields may compel visiting teams to play without complaint, but abandonments like the one in Lucknow expose an unreasonable rigidity. It hardly reflects well on the country when cricketers, who typically train and play in moderate to good air quality with AQIs ranging from 50 to 60, are forced to compete in conditions where AQI levels hover between 350 and 400.

What makes this even more perplexing is that the BCCI has previously demonstrated foresight by shifting the opening Test between India and South Africa from Delhi to Kolkata, citing peak pollution levels in the capital during November.

The Board also claims to follow a rotational policy when allotting international matches, although it is evident that some venues are rotated far more frequently than others. That, however, is a discussion for another day. Even accepting the BCCI's claim at face value, it beggars belief that basic common sense cannot be applied. New Zealand will tour India in January for three ODIs and five T20Is, with most matches scheduled in the western, central and southern parts of the country. With even minimal foresight, the BCCI could have swapped some venues in the South Africa series with grounds in the west or south, where winters are milder and air quality significantly better.

All it requires is political will from the "elected" members of the BCCI and not the politics that so often dictate its decisions.

DOMESTIC MATCHES CAUGHT IN A SMOG

- **Two Ranji Trophy matches in Delhi in November 2016 (Gujarat vs Bengal and Hyderabad vs Tripura) were cancelled without a ball being bowled because of poor visibility caused by smog.**
- The knockout stage of the men's U-23 one-day tournament in November this year was shifted from Delhi to Mumbai due to "severe" air quality levels.

Conway, Latham slam tons to flay hapless Windies

MOUNT MAUNGANUI (NEW ZEALAND), AFP: Devon Conway and Tom Latham plundered a poor West Indies attack on Thursday for a mammoth opening partnership on day one of the third Test in Mount Maunganui as New Zealand piled up 334-1.

Conway ended the day 178 not out and captain Latham was out just before the close for 137. The pair put on 323, the second-highest opening partnership for New Zealand, only bettered by Glenn Turner and Terry Jarvis's 387 stand against the West Indies in Georgetown in 1972.

It was only the eighth time New Zealand had registered a stand in excess of 300 in Tests.

"I'm pretty grateful to be part of that partnership," Conway said of his stand with Latham. "A lot of credit needs to go to Tom with the way he played. "Quite often throughout that partnership, he just reminded me about looking straight, you know, be there, be present, don't look too far ahead."

Conway said it was the best partnership he had been in but he had been unaware of how close they were to setting a New Zealand record.

Conway batted all day in facing 279 balls for his second century of the calendar year, but his first at home since January 2022 against Bangladesh in Christchurch. He scored 153 against Zimbabwe in August. Nightwatchman Jacob Duffy was on nine at the close of play. The 34-year-old Conway brought up his sixth Test century from 147 balls, and stroked 25 fours during his 279-ball stay.

Brief scores: New Zealand: 334/1 in 90 overs (Tom Latham 137, Conway 178 n.o.).

New Zealand's Devon Conway (right) and Tom Latham forged a 323-run opening stand on the first day of the third Test against West Indies. AFP

Aussies leave Eng reeling

ADELAIDE, AFP

A pumped-up Australia ripped through England's fragile batting on Thursday to leave the tourists staring down the barrel of a third Test defeat with their Ashes campaign on the brink, barring a miracle.

At stumps on a sweltering day two, the visitors had ground to 213/8, trailing by 158 after Australia added 45 to their overnight 326/8 as temperatures soared to 40 degrees C.

A gutsy Ben Stokes was a weary not out 45 after facing a marathon 151 balls in searing heat with Jofra Archer on 30 in a Test England must win and on a pitch ideal for batting.

"He's worn out as you can imagine," said England batting coach Marcus Trescothick of Stokes.

The captain's mood was not helped by another suspect decision by the Snicko technology, but at least his brave knock — including a blow to the helmet off Mitchell Starc — helped his side avoid the follow-on.

Australia lead the five-match series 2-0 and will retain the urn if they win or draw after back-to-back eight-wicket thumpings in Perth and Brisbane. Opening pair Ben Duckett and Zak Crawley saw off the early overs from Starc and Pat Cummins.

But it was a mirage with England losing three wickets for five runs in a 15-ball blitz, the latest chapter in a familiar tale. Cummins first tempted an edge from Crawley, on nine, to wicketkeeper Alex Carey in the Australian skipper's first Test since July after lower back issues.

Then in a stroke of genius, he brought on spin king Nathan Lyon, who was controversially left out for the pink-ball second Test at the Gabba. Lyon grabbed two wickets in a sensational opening over with a hapless Ollie Pope (3) flicking to Josh Inglis at midwicket before he bowled Duckett for 29.

England's most experienced player failed to capitalise and was gone in the third over after lunch to Cummins, with Carey collecting another edge.

Brief scores: Australia: (O/n: 326/8): 371 all out in 91.2 overs (Usman Khawaja 82, Alex Carey 106, Josh Inglis 32, Mitchell Starc 54; Jofra Archer 5-53, Brydon Carse 2-89, Will Jacks 2-105) vs England: 213/8 in 58 overs (Ben Duckett 29, Harry Brook 45, Ben Stokes 45, Jofra Archer 30 n.o.; Pat Cummins 3-54, Scott Boland 2-31, Nathan Lyon 2-51).

Australia's Nathan Lyon celebrates after dismissing England's Ben Duckett on the second day of the third Ashes Test at the Adelaide Oval on Thursday. AFP

Lyon humbled to surpass 'hero' McGrath

Off-spinner Nathan Lyon said he was humbled on Thursday after claiming his 564th wicket to move clear of fellow Australian great Glenn McGrath and into sixth on the all-time Test bowling list, reports AFP from Adelaide.

The 38-year-old, a classical spinner who flights the ball, bowled England's Ben Duckett to reach the milestone of day two of the third Ashes Test in Adelaide -- his 141st Test.

It was one of two wickets in a sensational opening over which also accounted for Ollie Pope.

"I grew up idolising Shane Warne and Glenn McGrath and these guys in my childhood were my heroes," he said.

"And to think of being able to overtake Glenn ... it's pretty humbling to be honest with you, and it's something that I'll look back on at the end of my career, or even tonight.

"I'll sit back and try and have a moment because it is an extremely special moment for myself."

Jeveeth, Ayush wear doubles crown

BENGALURU, DHNS: S Jeveeth and Ayush Kotian captured the boys' doubles title in the CRS Trust AITA under-16 Championship Series tennis tournament on Thursday.

Jeeveth and Ayush defeated Naman Saraf and Zaveri Mahin 6-2, 6-2 in a lop-sided final to wear the crown.

Jeveeth is also in line for a double by powering into the singles' final after defeating Saraf 6-4, 7-6 (2). He will take on Dasari Tanish, who defeated Dhavin Venkatesh Kumar 7-5, 6-2 in the title clash on Friday.

In the girl's singles, semi-finals, Khushi Budya and Yahana Arora emerged victorious to set up a final clash. Yahana defeated Sahasra Jayanth in straight sets 7-5, 6-2 while Khushi battled from a set down to defeat Preethi P 5-7, 6-3, 6-2.

Results: Boys: Singles (semifinals): Dasari Tanish bt Dhavin Venkatesh Kumar 7-5, 6-2; S Jeevith bt Saraf Naman 6-4, 7-6 (2).

Doubles, final: S Jeveeth/ Ayush Kotian bt Naman Saraf/ Zaveri Mahin 6-2, 6-2.

Girls: Singles (semifinals): Khushi Budhya bt Preethi P 5-7, 6-3, 6-2; Yahana Arora bt Sahasra Jayanth 7-5, 6-2.

Messi mania! But Indian football lies in comatose

Private event elicits big response while top flight league, ISL, is in limbo

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

Watching Lionel Messi live is a bucket list experience and many in India ticked it off during the high-profile 'G.O.A.T Tour' across Kolkata, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Delhi recently.

The global football superstar was welcomed with great fanfare, with Argentina, Barcelona and Inter Miami flags being waved as endless shouts of "Messi... Messi" reverberated in the stadiums.

People cutting across age-groups were swept and lured by the Messi mania as fans shelled out anywhere between Rs 5,000 and Rs 50,000 to get a glimpse of the World Cup winner in cities that hardly attracted crowds to watch an Indian football game where ticket prices were less than Rs 500 .

While this is not an unusual sight in India given its celebrity culture, it came at a time when its own football ecosystem is crumbling.

Indian men's football team captain Sandesh Jhingan was happy about the country's love for the sport, but felt that the Messi craze highlighted the nation's priority.

"It genuinely makes me happy that our country loves football," Jhingan wrote on Instagram. "What troubles me and leaves me deeply reflective is that at a time when our own football ecosystem is in jeopardy, arguably facing one of its most difficult phases, we stand on the brink of having no active domestic football ahead of us. It feels as though we are close to shutting everything down because there is no willingness to invest in football within India, yet crores were spent on this tour."

For the unversed, The All India Football Federation (AIFF) floated a Request For Proposal (RFP) on October 16 for Indian Super League's (ISL) commercial rights, with an annual payment of Rs 37.5 crore to the federation, which went unanswered. And there have been no solutions in sight yet.

India's steady slide is no mystery. It is result of years of negligence, lack of funding at the grassroots level and a broken talent pipeline.

Dempo FC CEO Pradhyum Reddy felt that the Messi gala had nothing to do with Indian football's crisis and relating the two was "farfetched."

"Not many understand the economics and very few know how it works. People need to understand that this is not AIFF, FSDL or Indian football clubs that have diverted their funds to bring Messi to India," Pradhyum told *DH*.

"Messi's trip arrangements were done by some private event management person. It's a simple business model. And if someone brings Ronaldo (Cristiano) next, it will work," he added.

Shedding more light on the current situation, Pradhyum questioned the system that paid the players above their market rates which eventually led to an unsustainable model.

"No one is questioning the fact that the players were overpaid, which is a part of why clubs have struggled and the league model has terribly failed. It is not sustainable when people are paid 10 times over their market value."

Many Indian footballers such as Shanmugam Venkatesh and Bhaichung Bhutia have voiced their opinions on the value that comes while playing outside of India. Pradhyum, however, stated that players might not pick those assignments due to its payscale.

"How many of these footballers have said that they are ready to go and play outside of India? In Southeast Asia or somewhere else in the world? Because they will make a lot lesser than what they are getting paid here. And they are not going to take that."

Talking about what needs to be done and if the people who are in power can turn the tables, Pradhyum said: "The entire footballing pyramid needs fixing, from the grassroots to youth-level competitions and from the I-League to the ISL and women's football. All of them need massive changes and people in charge at the moment are not capable of doing it."

Celebrities and elite politicians in the country flocked to catch a glimpse of Lionel Messi (centre) during his India tour with many fans paying huge sums for a selfie with the Argentine.

Nikhil to lead in Santosh Trophy

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru United's Nikhil Raj will lead Karnataka in the 79th Senior Men's National Football Championship for the Santosh Trophy, scheduled to be held at the Bangalore Football Stadium from Dec 20-24.

In Karnataka's group are Lakshadweep, Services and Goa.

Squad: Sujay S, Sahil, Subrahmanian, Kiran Saravanan, Rajil Saji, Ajith Arasu, Arjun Gowda, Aby S, Aravind Babu G, Arun Kumar D, Karthik Govind Swamy, Vishal R, Manglenthang Singsit, Dhanush R, Shreyas Ketkar, Godwin Johson, Chaphamayum Rohen Singh, Crispin C Cleetus, Nikhil Raj Murugesh (capt), Macarton Louis, Nickson.

Head coach: Ravi Babu Raju; **Assistant coach:** Chinta Chandrashekar Rao; **Manager:** Bappaditya Bhattacharjee; **Goalkeeping coach:** S Rajan; **Physio:** Rohit Ravi Arakeri. **Karnataka fixtures (all 3 pm): Dec 20:** Vs Lakshadweep; **Dec 22:** Vs Services; **Dec 24:** Vs Goa.

Karnataka edge ahead on lead

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka grabbed three points on the third day of their Elite Group C match against Maharashtra through a first-innings lead in the Cooch Behar Trophy in Mysuru on Thursday.

A half-century from Varun Patel, along with crucial contributions from the tail-enders, took group leaders Karnataka to 320 all out from their overnight score of 252/5. This was 16 runs more than Maharashtra's first innings total of 304.

Maharashtra's first innings star Arqam Syed (36 n.o.) now stands between an outright Karnataka win as he held on to his end till the stumps, taking his side to 176/6 (160-run lead) in the second innings.

The lower-order batter, who ensured Maharashtra went above 300 in the first innings, fought back once again after Eesa Puthiga (3/18) and Rathan BR (2/47) reduced the visitors to 129/6 by the post-tea session.

Brief scores: Maharashtra: 304 all out & 176/6 in 59 overs (Shubham Kadam 25, Sushrut Sawant 30, Samkit Surana 30, Arqam Syed 36 n.o.; Eesa Puthige 3-18, Rathan BR 2-47) vs Karnataka (O/n: 252/5): 320 all out in 104 overs (Dhruv Krishnan 59, Manikanth Shivanand 71, Anvay Dravid 38, Varun Patel 50; Harshil Sawant 2-53, Aneesh Joshi 2-22, Suashik Jagtap 4-93).

Ton-up Sukurth turns saviour after batting collapse

BENGALURU, DHNS: Sukurth J saved Karnataka U-16's blushes with a century down the order as the No. 6 batter scored 107 to recover his side from a top-order collapse to 225/9 at stumps against Baroda on the opening day of their Elite Group D match of the Vijay Merchant Trophy in Raipur on Thursday.

Karnataka, who are among the bottom two in the group after two rounds, recovered from 127/8 to surpass the 200-run mark as Sukurth had a crucial stand of 91 runs with Samarth Kulkarni (15 n.o.). The centurion fell late in the day to Yuvraj Sinh (3/63), whose spells troubled Karnataka from the onset.

Barring Syaamantak Anirudh (44), none of the top-order batters could resist the Baroda bowling as Karnataka were down to 46/4 in the morning session.

Brief scores: Karnataka: 225/9 in 90 overs (Syaamantak Anirudh 44, Sukurth 107; Pranav Khandelwal 2-36, Sumit Makwana 2-48, Yuvraj Sinh 3-63) vs Baroda.

TENNIS WTL

Badosa's Eagles soar high

Monfils-led side decimates Kyrgios' Kites for two wins on the bounce

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Eagles' Paula Badosa returns during her 6-1 victory over Kites' Marta Kostyuk in a women's singles tie of WTL at the SM Krishna Stadium on Thursday. DH PHOTO/ B K JANARDHAN

The wreckage that Paula Badosa started was ended by team-mate Sumit Nagal for AOS Eagles as the team, led by Frenchman Gael Monfils, scored a dominating 25-13 win over Aussie Mavericks Kites on the second day of the World Tennis League here.

Badosa, the world No. 25 Spaniard, was at her powerful best, taking No. 26 Marta Kostyuk by surprise in the former's dominating 6-1 win in the opening tie.

Sending down fiery serves and thunderous forehand winners, Badosa showed little mercy in walloping past her opponent under the winter Bengaluru sun at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium.

Partnering Monfils for the mixed doubles tie, Badosa once again did most of the heavy lifting to carry the duo past Kites' Kostyuk and Dhakshineshwar Suresh. Though the Indo-Ukraine pair put up a fight, the onslaught was too much in the end as Monfils and Badosa comfortably wrapped up the second tie 6-3.

The leader of the pack Nick Kyrgios was expected to stage a resurgence for the Kites when he teamed up with Suresh for the men's doubles tie. However, the maverick Aussie, who was not looking his physical best and having already pulled out of the mixed doubles tie, could do little to inspire the Kites as Monfils and partner Nagal sprinted away to the finish line 6-3. This further widened the gap in the total points earned which read 17-7 in favour of the Eagles by the end of the third tie.

With an overall win already out of reach, Kites' Suresh took on his more experienced compatriot Nagal in the fourth and final tie that turned out to be a close contest unlike the one-sided affairs until then.

India's no. 1 male singles player Nagal was troubled by Suresh's big serves and groundstrokes. Using the energy of the cheering home crowd, Nagal stretched his younger compatriot to the corners of the court, changed the pace of play to eventually escape with a 7-6 victory.

While Eagles have won both their opening two encounters, Kites have suffered two losses and could be out of the race for a final spot with one last match remaining on Friday.

Medvedev's Falcons win

A break of serve in the seventh game was enough for Game Changers Falcons' Daniil Medvedev, the biggest star in fray here, to overcome VB Realty Hawks' Denis Shapovalov 6-4 and take his team across the line with a 20-16 victory.

Former world No. 1 and 2021 US Open champion Medvedev's fourth tie win came after his team-mate Magda Linette lost the opener to Hawks' Elina Svitolina. However, recently-retired Indian doubles specialist Rohan Bopanna partnered with Linette and Medvedev to clinch both the doubles ties that gave the Russian an edge to close out the deciding contest.

Results: AOS Eagles bt Aussie Mavericks Kites 25-13 (Paula Badosa bt Marta Kostyuk 6-1; Gael Monfils/ Badosa bt Dhakshineshwar Suresh/ Kostyuk 6-3; Monfils/ Sumit Nagal bt Nick Kyrgios/ Suresh 6-3; Nagal bt Suresh 7-6).
Game Changers Falcons bt VB Realty Hawks 20-16 (Magda Linette lt to Elina Svitolina 2-6; Rohan Bopanna/ Linette bt Yuki Bhambri/ Maaya Revathi 6-3; Bopanna/ Medvedev bt Denis Shapovalov/ Bhambri 6-3; Medvedev bt Shapovalov 6-4).

Satwik-Chirag outwit Alfian-Fikri

HANGZHOU, PTI

India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty dished out a solid performance to outwit the Indonesian pair of Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Shohibul Fikri in their second Group B match to inch closer to the knockout stage of the BWF World Tour Finals here on Thursday.

The former world No. 1 Indian pair shored up their defence and dominated the proceedings to register a 21-11, 16-21, 21-11 win over world No. 8 Alfian and Fikri in the men's doubles match that lasted an hour.

With two wins from two matches, Satwik and Chirag now lead the group and have built a considerable advantage in points difference.

Third seeds Satwik and Chirag will face second seeds Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik in their last group match on Friday.

Facing a pair known for their exceptional front-court skills, the onus was on Chirag, but he was ably supported by Satwik, who was simply flawless in the evening.

The Indians changed their aggressive approach to a more blended mix of shots and pace to counter the Indonesians.

Two deep pushes from Chirag and a series of shots buried at the net from the nervy Indonesians saw India make a 6-0 start in the opening game.

The focus was on getting the service-and-receive situation right and keeping it tight, and the Indians aced it to enter the mid-game break with a commanding 11-2 advantage.

India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy (left) and Chirag Shetty inched closer to a knockout berth in the BWF World Tour Finals following a win on Thursday. PTI FILE PHOTO

Cherki guides City into semifinal

MANCHESTER, AFP: Rayan Cherki's stunning strike put Manchester City on their way to the League Cup semifinals with a 2-0 win over Brentford, while holders Newcastle beat Fulham 2-1 on Wednesday.

Manchester City face the Magpies in the last four, while Chelsea will go head to head with Arsenal or Crystal Palace.

Ahead of the hectic festive Premier League schedule, Pep Guardiola could afford to give Erling Haaland the night off as his side secured a sixth consecutive victory in all competitions.

Results: Manchester City: 2 (Cherki 32nd, Savinho 67th) bt Brentford: 0; Cardiff: 1 (Turnbull 75th) lt to Chelsea: 3 (Garnacho 57th, 90th+3, Neto 82nd); Newcastle United: 2 (Wissa 10th, Miley 90th+2) bt Fulham: 1 (Lukic 16th)

Madrid win

Kylian Mbappe scored twice and Real Madrid beat third-division club Talavera 3-2 in the round of 32 of the Copa del Rey on Wednesday.

Results: Talavera: 2 (Arroyo 80th, Di Renzo 90th+1) lt to Real Madrid: 3 (Mbappe 41st pen, 88th, Farrando 45th+1 own goal); Atletico Baleares: 2 (Bonet 28th, Keita 90th) lt to Atletico Madrid: 3 (Griezmann 16th, 72nd, Raspadori 20th); Racing Santander: 2 (Arana 6th, 28th) lt to Villareal: 1 (Perez 86th); Deportivo Alaves: 1 (Vicente 79th pen) bt Sevilla: 0; Cultural Leonesa: 1 (Tresaco 12th) bt Levante: 0.

Jharkhand SMAT champs

PUNE, PTI

Ishan Kishan celebrates after Jharkhand defeat Haryana in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy final in Pune on Thursday. X

Out-of-favour India wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan made a compelling case for a T20I recall with a belligerent hundred to power Jharkhand to their maiden Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy title with a 69-run victory over Haryana here on Thursday.

Kishan went on a six-hitting spree, smashing 10 maximums en route to a breathtaking 49-ball 101 as Jharkhand piled up an imposing 262/3.

Jharkhand bowlers, led by medium pacer Anukul Roy, then struck twice in his opening over while his team applied the brakes with regular wickets to bowl out Haryana for 193, despite a fighting half-century from wicketkeeper-batter Yashvardhan Dalal (53). Roy also smashed a 20-ball 40.

Jharkhand thus became the 12th state to win the country's premier T20 domestic tournament. Invited to bat first, the Jharkhand skipper stitched a decisive 177-run partnership for the second wicket with Kumar Kushagra, who played the perfect foil with a rapid 81 off 38 deliveries to keep the pressure firmly on the Haryana bowlers.

Brief scores: Jharkhand: 262/3 in 20 overs (Ishan Kishan 101, Kumar Kushagra 81, Ankul Roy 40 n.o., Robin Minz 31 n.o.) bt Haryana: 193 all out in 18.3 overs (Yashvardhan Dalal 53, Nishant Sindhu 31; Vikash Singh 2-30, Sushant Mishra 3-27, Bal Krishna 3-38, Anukul Roy 2-42). **Result:** Jharkhand won by 69 runs. **PoM:** Ishan Kishan. **PoS:** Anukul Roy.

Ketan emerges champion

NEW DELHI, PTI: Haryana's Ketan Malik overcame a strong field comprising Paris Olympic double medallist Manu Bhaker and was crowned the women's 10m air pistol national champion here on Thursday.

Ketan struck the gold with 240.0, ahead of Meenu Pathak of Delhi, who took silver with 238.4, and Surbhi Rao, who claimed bronze with 219.5.

In the junior women's category, Vanshika Chaudhary from Uttar Pradesh emerged on top, edging out Anjali Shekhawat by 0.2 for gold, while Asian Games champion Palak Gulia secured bronze, and Army Marksmanship Unit's Lakshita Bishnoi claimed the youth title.

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(From left) Aakash, Sahana and Himanshi pose with their spoils at the Canara Union in Bengaluru.

Aakash, Sahana clinch titles

BENGALURU, DHNS

LOCAL TABLE TENNIS

Aakash KJ and Sahana Murthy clinched the men's and women's singles titles respectively in the CVL Shashtry Memorial Karnataka State Table Tennis Championship at the Canara Union courts here on Thursday.

In the men's final, Aakash came through without breaking a sweat as he beat Abhinav Murthy 11-5, 11-9, 11-7, 11-6 in straight games.

In the corresponding women's final, Sahana was pushed to the limit by Deshna Vanshika but the eventual winner held her nerve to win 5-11, 6-11, 11-9, 11-9, 11-5, 11-7.

In the girls' U-17 singles final, Himanshi Chowdhary emerged champion with a four-game victory against Tanisha Kalbhairav 11-6, 13-15, 11-1, 11-1.

Tanisha fought back initially after going a game down as she won the second game 15-13 but Himanshi turned unstoppable in the next two games to seal the title.

Results (all finals): Men's: Singles: Aakash KJ bt Abhinav Murthy 11-5, 11-9, 11-7, 11-6.
Women's: Singles: Sahana Murthy bt Deshna Vanshika 5-11, 6-11, 11-9, 11-9, 11-5, 11-7.
Girls' U-17: Singles: Himanshi Chowdhary defeated Tanishka Kapil Kalbhairav 11-6, 13-15, 11-1, 11-1.

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